



House votes to repeal Obama's health care law

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, to discuss the upcoming voteto repeal the health care bill.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)- Read Page A5

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, January 20, 2011

Giffords able to stand up as she readies for rehab



By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
MARILYNN MARCHIONE,
Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. – Less than two weeks after surviving a bullet through the brain, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords stood up and looked out the window of her hospital room Wednesday as she prepares to move to Houston to begin an arduous journey of intensive mental and physical rehabilitation.

Hospital spokeswoman Janet Stark said Giffords was able to stand on her feet with assistance from medical staff Wednesday in another significant milestone in her recovery. The next step is extensive rehabilitation in which she will have to relearn how to think and plan. It's unclear if she is able to speak or how well she can see. And while she is moving both arms and legs, it's uncertain how much strength she has on her right side.

Her swift transition from an intensive care unit to a rehab center is based on the latest research, which shows the sooner rehab starts, the better patients recover.

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RIGHTS OF WAY



President Barack Obama and China's President Hu Jintao arrive for their joint news conference, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press
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Tunisia calms as govt. rejects old guard

HADEEL AL-SHALCHI

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia's new government said it has freed all the country's political prisoners and also moved to track down assets stashed overseas by its deposed president and his widely disliked family.

Tensions on the streets appeared to be calming Wednesday as the administration tried to show it was distancing itself from the old guard.

Hundreds of protesters led a rally in central Tunis demanding that former allies of deposed President Zine El

Abidine Ben Ali stop clinging to power. Later, about 30 youths in the capital broke a curfew and set up camp near the heavily guarded Interior Ministry, bringing mats, food and water for an overnight sit-in. Police didn't bother them.

In recent days, police had fired tear gas and clubbed protesters.

The U.N. said more than 100 people have died in the unrest that surrounded Ben Ali's ouster.

He fled to Saudi Arabia on Friday after 23 years in power, and a caretaker government is now struggling to calm

this moderate Muslim nation on the Mediterranean Sea, popular among European tourists and seen as an ally in the West's fight against terrorism.

Some 33 members of Ben Ali's family have so far been taken into custody while trying to leave the country, as was the Senate president, national TV said.

Ben Ali's longtime prime minister, Mohamed Ghannouchi, kept his post and is trying to convince Tunisians a new era has arrived — even if the composition of the interim government has many faces from the old guard.

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Mark Kelly, husband of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, talks about his life with Gabby Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011 at the University Medical Center in Tucson, Az.

(AP Photo/The Arizona Republic, Tom Tingle)

GIFFORD

Continued from Front Page
Giffords' family hopes to move the Arizona congresswoman on Friday to TIRR Memorial Hermann hospital in Houston, where her husband lives and works as an astronaut. The exact day of the move will depend on her health.

"I am extremely hopeful at the signs of recovery that my wife has made since the shooting," Mark Kelly said in a statement released by Giffords'

congressional office. The staff at University Medical Center in Tucson "has stabilized her to the point of being ready to move to the rehabilitation phase." Dr. John Holcomb, retired Army colonel and a trauma surgeon at the Houston hospital, praised the care she received in Tucson and said Giffords would "move quickly toward a tailored and comprehensive rehab plan." Giffords was shot in the forehead Jan. 8 while meeting

with constituents outside a grocery store in Tucson. She remains in serious condition. Her recovery has amazed her family and impressed her doctors, who say she is improving every day.

Over the weekend, Giffords was weaned off the ventilator and had her breathing tube replaced with a tracheotomy tube in her windpipe. Doctors also inserted a feeding tube to boost her calorie intake and repaired her right eye socket, which was damaged by the bullet. Since being taken off sedation, Giffords has been alert and opening her eyes more often. She also started rigorous physical therapy, dangling her legs over her bedside to exercise her muscles and sitting in a chair for periods at a time. Kelly told ABC in an interview that she gave him a neck rub. Still, the extent of her injuries and long-term prognosis won't be known for some time.

The gunman shot 18 other people, killing six and wounding 12. All survivors have been released from hospitals, and doctors say the

hospital is now no longer the best place for Giffords.

"When she's medically stable, there's really no reason to keep her there," where she could get infections and other complications long known to plague patients with long hospital stays, said Dr. Steve Williams, rehab chief at Boston Medical Center and the Boston University School of Medicine.

"Over the last five to 10 years, there has been a big push to getting patients rapidly to rehab," because research shows they recover faster and better the earlier therapy starts, he said.

Giffords will likely be moved to Houston by Medevac jet, Williams said, and there is little risk of a brain injury from flying. Since part of her skull has been removed, there is less pressure on the brain, and there has been no problem with swelling during her recovery. During rehab, she will probably wear a helmet.

Once she arrives in Houston, doctors will do a complete assessment of what Giffords can and cannot do, said Dr.

Reid Thompson, neurosurgery chief at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

"The rehab is going to be pretty intense for her, both cognitively and physically," because she'll need to recover frontal lobe functions, Thompson said. "She's going to have to relearn how to think, plan, organize."

A penetrating brain injury like a bullet wound leaves a specific path of damage. Giffords' wound path appears to be below the motor cortex, which controls movement, but may include an area controlling speech, Williams said. He is not involved in Giffords' care and based his comments on diagrams and reports of her injury that have been made public so far.

"One of the questions is whether she'll be able to speak," Williams said. Giffords has a breathing tube now, and even if this impedes her speech, she might be able to mouth words.

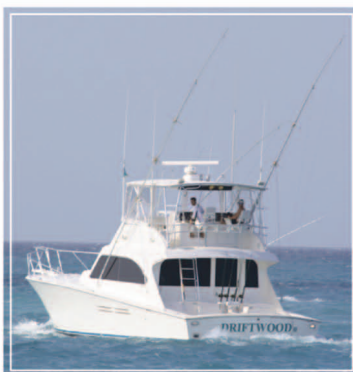
"That would be a good indication that she at least is able to express herself," Williams said. □

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With Obama, Hu concedes China's rights need help

By BEN FELLER,
AP White House Correspondent
WASHINGTON — In a rare concession on a highly sensitive issue, Chinese President Hu Jintao used his White House visit on Wednesday to acknowledge “a lot still needs to be done” to improve human rights in his nation accused of repressing its people. President Barack Obama pushed China to adopt fundamental freedoms but assured Hu the U.S. considers the communist nation a friend and vital economic partner. Hu’s comments met with immediate skepticism from human rights advocates, who dismissed them as words backed by no real history of action. Hu contended his country has “made enormous progress” but provided no specifics.

Still, his remarks seemed to hearten and surprise U.S. officials, coming during an elaborate visit that centered on boosting trade and trust between the world’s two largest economies.

More broadly, Hu and Obama sought to show off a more mature and respectful relationship, not the one often defined by disputes over currency, sovereignty and freedoms.

Hu said he wanted even closer contact with Obama; Obama sought again to embrace

China’s rise, and the two men shared some unexpected laughs.

The Chinese president was treated lavishly, granted the honor of the third state dinner of Obama’s presidency. He was welcomed in the morning to the sounds of military bands and the smiles of children on the South Lawn; he was capping the evening at a black-tie White House gala of jazz musicians and all-American food.

Eager to show progress, particularly with the unemployment weighing down his country, Obama said the nations sealed business deals that would mean \$45 billion in U.S. exports and create roughly 235,000 jobs. The package included moves by China to expand U.S. investment and curtail theft of intellectual property.

China’s human rights record is poor and worsening, with abuses ranging from censorship to illegal detention of dissidents to executions without due process, according to the U.S. government. In a packed news conference — one designed to underscore the freedom of speech on Obama’s home turf — Hu was pressed to defend his country’s treatment of its people. He initially did not answer, saying he never heard the question translated, although the White

House said that it was.

When prodded a second time, Hu defended his country’s promotion of human rights. But then he added that China is enduring challenges as it develops and “a lot still needs to be done in China in terms of human rights.” He said China stood to gain from other countries’ input, saying: “We’re also willing to learn.”

For his part, Obama had to find a balance, standing up for freedoms while not overstepping Hu during the uncommon honor of a state visit. Obama said his nation’s relationship with China is bettering the world’s economy and security, and that it cannot stop over “tension” about human rights fairness.

Pressing for a more cautious long view, Obama said: “I want to suggest that there has been an evolution in China over the last 30 years since the first normalization over relations between the United States and China. And my expectation is that, 30 years from now, we will have seen further evolution.”

Laced in their comments, however, were reminders that no amount of cooperation would trump each country’s core interests.

Charles Freeman, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that Hu’s



President Barack Obama gestures during his joint news conference with China’s President Hu Jintao, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

comments on human rights were a minor concession to U.S. concerns. “They have learned over the years that throwing a bone to the Americans is a pretty good way to shut them up,” Freeman said.

Sophie Richardson, Asia advocacy director for Human Rights Watch, said China had issued similar rhetoric before but that it added up to little more than a public relations exercise.

Earlier, as Hu’s visit was just beginning, Obama was blunt about human rights. “History shows that societies are more harmonious, nations are more successful, and the world is more just when the rights and responsibilities of all nations and all people are upheld,” he

said.

White House officials said Hu, privately to Obama, expressed the same sentiment about China’s need to do more on human rights. They expressed surprise that Hu made the statement publicly and while overseas. Chinese leaders have typically argued that how the country handles human rights is an internal matter.

In private, Obama specifically inquired about the case of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, a jailed dissident who was prevented from attending the Dec. 10 prize ceremony in the Norwegian capital. Obama, who himself won the prize last year, did not mention Liu in his public comments on Wednesday. □

Philadelphia abortion doctor charged with murder

PHILADELPHIA — Prosecutors charged a Philadelphia abortion doctor with murder on Wednesday, claiming he killed viable babies by cutting their spinal cords with scissors after removing them from mothers late in their pregnancies.

Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams charged Dr. Kermit Gosnell and nine associates with seven counts of murder involving babies, but said hundreds of others likely died in the squalid clinic that Gosnell ran from 1979 to 2010.

The defendants face first-degree murder in the cases of seven babies for which there is substantial evidence, Williams said. The babies were born

alive and viable, he said.

“My comprehension of the English language can’t adequately describe the barbaric nature of Dr. Gosnell,” Williams said at a news conference.

Williams said he may seek the death penalty for Gosnell, 69, who with his associates was arrested on Wednesday.

Gosnell was charged with murder, infanticide, conspiracy, abortion at 24 or more weeks and other charges. Pennsylvania law prohibits abortion after 24 weeks except to save the life of the mother or avoid serious health risk to her.

The doctor committed murder under the law, the prosecutor said at a news conference.

“I am aware that abortion is a hot-button topic,” he said. “But as district attorney, my job is to carry out the law.”

“A doctor who cuts into the necks severing the spinal cords of living, breathing babies, who would survive with proper medical attention, is committing murder under the law,” he said.

Women who came to the clinic were given medication to induce delivery, and the viable babies were killed by Gosnell and his associates, Williams said.

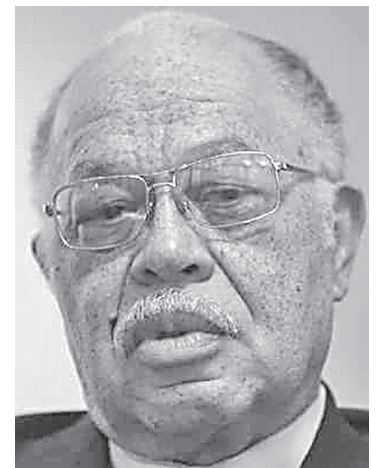
He said Gosnell’s clients, many of whom were poor, were charged \$325 for a first-trimester abortion and between \$1,625 and \$3,000 for an illegal abortion after 24

weeks.

Gosnell also faces a charge of third-degree murder, stemming from the death of a mother who died from an overdose of anesthetics, he said.

The charges follow a year-long investigation by a grand jury, whose report was unveiled on Wednesday. The report read, in part: “Although no one could place an exact number on the instances, Gosnell’s staff testified that killing large, late-term babies who had been observed breathing and moving was a regular occurrence.”

Prosecutors said the state Health Department was informed of violations at Gosnell’s clinic as early as



1996 but failed to respond and did not visit the clinic until February 2010 when it was raided during a drug investigation.

The health department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The other defendants face charges including murder, conspiracy, racketeering and perjury. □

Attorney in sex-abuse cases releases list of accused priests



BOSTON - A Boston-area attorney for hundreds of clients who say they were abused by priests released on Wednesday a list of what he says are 117 members of

the clergy or religious orders accused of abusing minors. Mitchell Garabedian said he released his list to help victims heal and because the Archdiocese of Boston's

Cardinal Sean O'Malley has failed to release names as he said he would years ago.

The list includes 18 names from the Archdiocese of Boston not previously tracked by BishopAccountability.org, a Massachusetts-based group that maintains a database of accused priests nationwide.

Most of the names on Garabedian's list are located in the Boston area. The priest sex abuse scandal, which has rocked the Roman Catholic church worldwide, first erupted in Boston nearly a decade ago.

"It's very important to victims that the truth be told and releasing the names of

pedophile priests is telling the truth," Garabedian said ahead of a news conference with a number of abuse survivors and members of BishopAccountability.org. Asked to respond to release of the list, the Archdiocese of Boston said in a statement it is committed to the protection of children and ensuring that "the sexual abuse crisis is never repeated."

"We remain committed to augmenting our present policy in the area of disclosing additional information about credibly accused clergy," the statement said.

"We continue to evaluate the complexities of this initiative,

especially those associated with disclosing information relating to deceased priests or those accused of a crime, whose guilt or innocence has not been established, and the serious due process concerns this presents," it said.

The attorney said he has represented more than 750 victims against the 117 members of the list.

BishopAccountability.org currently tracks about 3,200 names of accused priests compiled over several years from news reports and public documents, said founder and co-director Terence McKiernan. □

Chiesi admits "crossing the line" in Galleon case

NEW YORK - A key defendant in the Galleon hedge fund insider trading case pleaded guilty to criminal charges on Wednesday, tearfully admitting to "crossing the line" by leaking information on stocks including IBM and Advanced Micro Devices Inc.

Danielle Chiesi, a former trader with New Castle Funds LLC, was arrested on the same day in October 2009 as Galleon hedge fund founder Raj Rajaratnam after the government secretly recorded telephone conversations between them and others in a long-running probe of the industry.

"I am deeply ashamed by what I did," Chiesi said during a 30-minute plea proceeding in U.S. District Court in New York.

"By crossing the line on those occasions, I ruined a 20-year career in my field and brought disrepute

to what was an honorable profession," said Chiesi, 45, who was dressed in a dark pants suit and white blouse.

She added, "I apologize to the court and I take full responsibility."

Sri Lankan-born Rajaratnam has pleaded not guilty in a case that federal prosecutors in New York describe as the biggest probe of insider trading at hedge funds in the United States. The long-running probe also marked the most extensive use of wiretaps in a white-collar criminal case, authorities said.

Chiesi could serve up to four years in prison under the terms of a plea agreement. Her lawyer, Alan Kaufman, said outside the courtroom that Chiesi had not agreed to cooperate with the government in the Galleon probe and that prosecutors had not

asked her to.

Chiesi told the judge that in 2008 and early 2009 she had nonpublic material information on IBM Corp, Advanced Micro Devices and Sun Microsystems that she shared with her boss at New Castle, who was Mark Kurland, and other people in the hedge fund industry.

Chiesi, who cried as her mother, sister and two nieces watched the proceeding from the public benches, also told the judge that "this guilty plea causes me great pain."

She admitted to three counts of conspiracy to commit securities fraud before U.S. District Judge Richard Holwell. The same judge is presiding over the criminal trial of Rajaratnam starting on February 28.

Continued on Page A6

Rabbi warns Alabama governor over brotherhood comment

BIRMINGHAM - A prominent Alabama rabbi warned new state Governor Robert Bentley on Wednesday against using religion as a wedge after Bentley said only Christians who were saved were his brothers and sisters. Bentley, a Republican, said in a speech the day of his inauguration on Monday that people who were not saved were not his brothers or sisters because they did not share the same "Daddy", a reference to God.

Bentley was speaking in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King at the church in the state capital from which King led the celebrated

Montgomery bus boycott that in 1955 launched the era's crusade against segregation.

"It is very important that the Governor is a uniting force and does not use religion as a wedge to divide Alabamians," said Rabbi Jonathan Miller of the Temple Emanu-El, in Birmingham, the state's largest city.

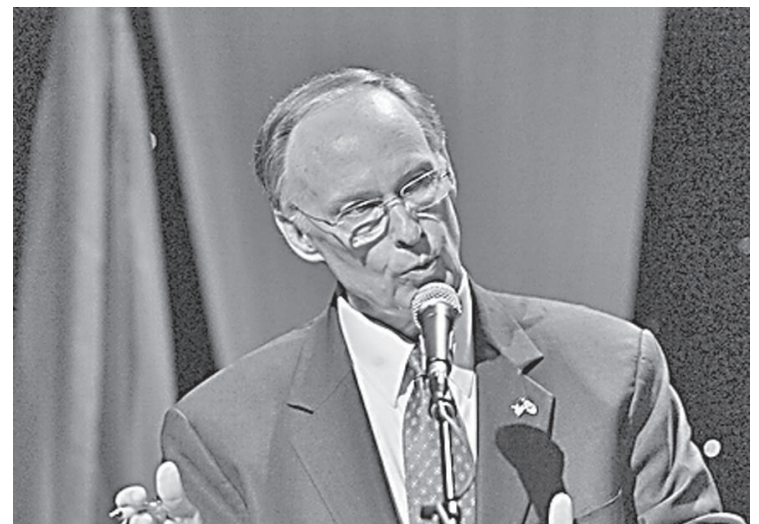
"We were troubled by his remarks and the sentiments they presented," Miller told Reuters, adding that he had sent Bentley a letter "explaining my concerns and to introduce him to the Jewish community in Birmingham." "I appealed to him not to divide us," he said.

Bentley was due to issue a statement on the matter later on Wednesday, aides said.

Political analysts said state leaders had worked for years to overcome the state's reputation for intolerance gained because of official opposition to civil rights, and they said they feared Bentley's remarks could help revive that image.

In remarks quoted by the BirminghamNews newspaper, Bentley said: "I was elected as a Republican candidate. But once I became governor. I became the governor of all the people. I intend to live up to that. I am color blind."

"There may be some people

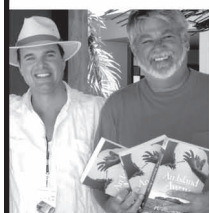


here today who do not have living within them the Holy Spirit," he said.

"But if you have been adopted in God's family like I have and if you're saved and the Holy Spirit lives within you just like the Holy Spirit lives within me, then you know what that makes? It makes you and me brothers. And it

makes you and me brother and sister," he said.

"If we don't have the same daddy, we're not brothers and sisters. So anybody here today who has not accepted Jesus Christ as their savior, I'm telling you, you're not my brother and you're not my sister, and I want to be your brother," he said. □



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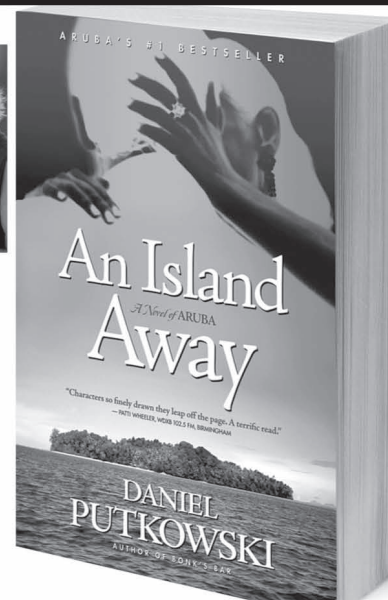
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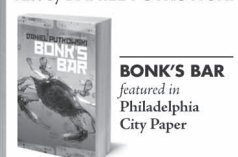
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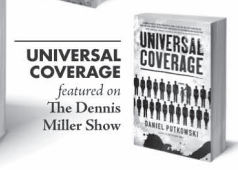
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House votes to repeal Obama's health care law

By DAVID ESPO,

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Swiftly honoring a campaign pledge, newly empowered Republicans pushed legislation to repeal the nation's year-old health care overhaul through the House Wednesday night, brushing aside implacable opposition in the Senate and a veto threat from President Barack Obama.

The 245-189 vote was largely along party lines, and cleared the way for the second phase of the "repeal and replace" promise that victorious Republicans made to the voters last fall. GOP officials said that in the coming months, congressional committees will propose changes to the existing legislation, calling for elimination of a requirement for individuals to purchase coverage, for example, and recommending curbs on medical malpractice lawsuits. Republicans also intend to try to reverse many of the changes Democrats made to Medicare Advantage, the private alternative to the traditional government-run health care program for seniors.

Like the repeal bill itself, these other measures will require Senate approval and a presidential signature to take effect, and the prospect is for months of maneuvering on the issue.

Debate across two days leading to the vote was markedly restrained, as lawmakers in both political parties observed self-imposed vows of civility in the wake of the shooting rampage in



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, center, speaks about the upcoming vote to repeal the health care bill, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, on Capitol Hill in Washington. From left are, Rep. Nan Hayworth, R-N.Y., Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., Boehner, House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of Calif., and Rep. Jeb Hensarling R-Texas.

Arizona that left six dead and Rep. Gabrielle Giffords wounded.

But there was no mistaking the significance many first-term Republican lawmakers attached to a day they had long waited for, finally getting a chance to speak and then vote on the House floor against a law they had campaigned for months to repeal.

Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C. said the legislation produced by Obama and congressional Democrats was a "job-killing, socialistic" approach to health care. Rep. Frank Guinta of New Hampshire, who defeated a Democratic incumbent last fall, said it was misguided, needing repeal.

"The American people have soundly, soundly rejected the Democrats' government

takeover of health care," said Rep. Sandy Adams of Florida. Rep. Steve Southerland, also of Florida, said the law imposes a crushing tax burden on businesses, and he predicted "1.6 million jobs will be lost by 2014 due to this mandate" to require many businesses to provide coverage for employees.

Both Floridians won their seats by turning out Democratic incumbents.

"This is not symbolic. This is why we were sent here," added Rep. Michelle Bachman, of Minnesota, a third-term conservative with strong support among tea party activists.

On the short end of the vote, Democrats challenged Republican claims and highlighted politically popular

elements of the bill that would be wiped out if repeal took effect.

Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., accused some Republicans of "the height of hypocrisy" by voting to repeal a vast expansion of health care at the same time they had signed up for coverage for their families through a government-organized program available to lawmakers.

Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., said that despite claims of employment loss, the economy had added jobs in each of the past 10 months.

In one of the most animated speeches of two days of debate, Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., said repeal would return power to insurance companies. "Has anybody, any family in America, any single

mother, any spouse, any child, any grandparent met a more bureaucratic system than the American health insurance system? There is no more bureaucratic system."

Three Democrats voted with Republicans on the repeal measure: Dan Boren of Oklahoma, Mike McIntyre of North Carolina and Mike Ross of Arkansas.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said the legislation will not see the light of day there, but the GOP leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, said bluntly, "I assure you we will" have a vote on it.

The law faces another challenge, well beyond the reach of Obama's veto pen. More than half the states have filed suits against it, and while some judges have upheld the legislation, one recently ruled it was unconstitutional to require individuals to purchase insurance. The Supreme Court is widely expected to have the final word.

The Obama administration has made a major effort in recent days to emphasize parts of the bill that have met with public approval, including one that permits children to age 26 to remain on their parents' policies if they do not have on-the-job coverage of their own. Democrats also argue that repeal would short-circuit other changes yet to take effect, including a ban on the insurance industry's practice of denying coverage or charging sharply higher premiums on the basis of a pre-existing medical condition. □

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

U.S. study hopes to increase school efficiency



WASHINGTON - At a time when U.S. school districts face tighter budgets, schools may be able to get better results if they increase productivity, according to a new study. But achieving an increase in education efficiency may require spending less on administration and more on teaching.

The Return on Educational Investment study, conducted by the Center for American Progress, assesses around 9,000 school districts across the nation in terms of student achievement as seen on reading and math proficiency tests versus spending.

It also evaluates to what degree improving efficiency would increase student achievement. "In education, we think about achievement on one side and spending on the other," said

Ulrich Boser, the lead author of the study and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. "We need to start looking at them together."

Researchers did not make a list ranking the most efficient schools but instead created an online database that allows comparison of districts by each state, and some major metropolitan districts by national standards.

The study "highlights district variation (in efficiency)," said John Podesta, president and CEO of the Center for American Progress. "So hopefully, people will start scratching their heads and try to figure out what's going on."

Boser stressed that the researchers are not suggesting districts should be spending less or reforms should be purely those like vouchers

which add market-like elements to education.

"The goal should be how do we get more for what we spend," Boser said.

The year-long study used 2008 spending data from the school districts and achievement data from the New American Foundation for the same year to reach their findings, while factoring in differences such as cost of living and student poverty.

The study also showed the impact of social disparities. Poor students defined as those qualifying for extra subsidies in the federal school lunch program are 12 percent more likely to be in the country's least-productive districts. Minorities are twice as likely to be enrolled in a least-productive district.

Slouching property values

Many reforms and budget cuts have focused on teachers. But authors of the study hope that the research might expand the conversation to include all inefficient spending in districts, whether in teaching or administration or operations. □



GALLEON

Continued from Page A4

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

Duke University law professor Samuel Buell, a former lead prosecutor in the U.S. Justice Department's Enron task force, said Chiesi's plea the 16th out of 24 charged in the Galleon case was unlikely to have a major impact on the trial strategies of remaining defendants.

"It might have a mild psychological effect on the defendants themselves," said Buell. "They may think Chiesi had thought she was able to beat this case, and now changed her mind, so that might cause other defendants to second-guess themselves."

The judge said Chiesi signed a plea agreement that includes prison sentence guidelines of 37 to 46 months.

Prosecutors alleged after her October 16, 2009, arrest that she made about \$4 million in illegal profits, but on Wednesday, her lawyer said she did not trade for her own account and that her eventual forfeiture would be "a very, very low number." Kaufman, of Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, said in a statement that Chiesi passed on confidential information to Kurland, her boss at Castle. Kurland "authorized trades for the hedge fund. She did not trade for her own account," Kaufman said. Sentencing was set for May 13.

Chiesi was set to go on trial on April 25. She could have faced a maximum possible sentence of 25 years imprisonment if she had gone to trial on charges of conspiracy and securities fraud.

Kurland pleaded guilty and he was the first Wall Street executive to be sentenced in the sprawling probe on May 21 last year when Judge Victor Marrero ordered him imprisoned for 27 months.

Chiesi had an affair with Robert Moffat, a former IBM Corp executive charged in the case, according to court records. Moffat gave her tips in August and September 2008 about IBM's licensing of a deal involving AMD, details of IBM server sales and also earnings information about Lenovo Group Ltd while he was a nonvoting board member. Moffat is serving a six-month prison sentence after pleading guilty.

The case is USA v Raj Rajaratnam and Danielle Chiesi, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, No. 09-01184. □

Employment to edge up in U.S. cities in 2011

WASHINGTON - Payrolls will grow in almost all U.S. metropolitan areas this year, but the gains will be slight, according to a forecast from IHS Global Insight, Inc. released by the U.S. Conference of Mayors on Wednesday.

The report found that 88 percent of the country's metropolitan areas, 319 in total, will see employment growth this year, and in 2012 all metro areas will see some job gains.

But in 150 metro areas, employment will increase by less than 1 percent.

By the end of 2011, 156 metropolitan areas will have unemployment rates of 9 percent or higher, while 30 areas will have unemployment rates of 6 percent or below.

The mayors group will meet this week with members of Congress and President Barack Obama to press for more job creation, said its president, Mayor Elizabeth Kautz of Burnsville, Minnesota.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it is all about jobs,"

she told reporters. "We need to make sure we put in place an infrastructure, an economic infrastructure, that helps our people get retrained for jobs of the 21st century."

Two years ago, the mayors pressed the federal government to create an economic stimulus plan that would put the unemployed back to work quickly on capital works and road projects and would help city and state governments sidestep layoffs. This year, the 230 mayors in the Conference are instead looking to attract private and foreign investment and cut spending in order to drag down unemployment rates.

Currently, the national unemployment rate is 9.4 percent. As the economy recovers from the recession that officially ended in the summer of 2009, job markets in different states have varied widely. Likewise, employment in some metropolitan areas, which are larger than cities, has bounced back more quickly than in others. □



HOLIDAY INN RESORT ARUBA SETS 2011 CONSUMER INCENTIVES

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MIAMI – The Holiday Inn Resort Aruba is helping travelers stretch their vacation dollars like never before by offering an extensive roster of value-added consumer incentives for resort stays throughout 2011. Incentives cover a wide range of travelers, including brides and grooms, military personnel, families and seniors. Details are as follows:

Free Caribbean Wedding Program

Valid through December 31, 2011, the Free Caribbean Wedding program offers a series of complimentary services and amenities designed to help couples plan and enjoy a unique tropical destination wedding experience under the warm Aruba sun. The program is available exclusively to travelers originating in the U.S., and includes everything from the cake, bouquet, boutonniere, and marriage certificate, to a bottle of champagne, the services of a non-denominational pastor, Priority Club® bonus points and even a special gift from the resort. Videography and photography services, music, reception/banquet options and a range of add-on services to enhance wedding celebrations and honeymoons are also available at an additional cost.

Continued on Page A11

Team Aruba hits the road



Read Page A9

DIGICEL and Special Olympics using SMS

Aruba's athletes participate in the Special Olympics in Athens

ORANJESTAD – Recently Special Olympics and Digicel have met to announce their sponsorship for one more year and preparing for the Special Olympics in Athens.

The board of the Special Olympics showed their appreciation that once more Digicel showed interest to help the athletes participate in this international event.

For more than seven consecutive years _ even before they launched their service in Aruba _ Digicel has supported Special Olympics.

Shortly Digicel will announce a number where you can send your SMS to donate 1 Florin to help these athletes raise the additional funds to go to Athens.

Continued on Page A10



The Casino at the Radisson

Invites you to join Super Saturday



Palm Beach – The Casino at the Radisson is hosting a Super Saturday event this weekend when it reveals its special attraction, a brand new Suzuki SX4.

All visitors to the Casino at the Radisson on Saturday evening will receive a raffle ticket, making them eligible to win! Ruben Garcia, Melvin Garcia and the team of Riba Bou, supported by Miss Aruba and Miss Carnival will help the Casino at the Radisson reveal the car, so don't miss the fun, starting at 7 pm with cocktails, snacks and live entertainment.

The Suzuki SX4 is offered by the Casino at the Radisson to its slot players and will be raffled off on March 25 among all jackpot winners. Make sure you are included, and get additional tickets to participate with every hand-paid jackpot of \$50 and more!

Super Saturday also included a fun bingo carrying a minimum \$1,300 in prizes, starting at 2pm. Eight games will be played plus one progressive, and patrons will enjoy door prizes, soft

drinks & snacks!

Get four bingo cards for just \$6 and the progressive card for just Awg 2.

Later in the evening, the Casino at the Radisson is organizing a Poker Tournament at 7pm and a Slot Tournament at 9pm, offering tremendous cash prizes.

Pictured here last week's lucky winners: Saturday's bingo placed David Appell, a repeat guest to Aruba since the age of 14, staying at the Occidental Grand, first, Juan Carlos Muhica second and Hubert Albertus third, as they shared \$650 dollars offered by the casino for prizes. John Benedetto of

Massachusetts staying at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa landed \$3,000 as he played his favorite dollar slot machine. ☐



Team Aruba's new racer hits the road



Team Aruba continues to bring pride to their country in the U. S. drag racing circuit. The accomplished driver is Trevor Eman, a 24-year-old Aruban who is a senior at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He and his dad proudly claimed Team Aruba's new 2011 Ford Mustang Pro Stock race car in St. Louis, Missouri,

on January 5, and drove 18 hours to Bradenton Motorsport Park in Bradenton, Florida, to test it out.

They rented the track for two days for testing and adjustments. The first test runs went well and the team is very pleased with the results. Some photos of the test session, courtesy of Team Aruba, are attached.

We are all looking forward to a stellar year for Team Aruba! □



Aruba's athletes participate in the Special Olympics in Athens



Number one; they did it!



Continued from Page A7

In this way the company can show their unconditional support of the foundation that prepares the athletes for this international event. □

Papillon earns number one rating in restaurant reviews



Papillon Restaurant at rating system of www. The Village across from restaurantsaruba.com. the Radisson Resort is The unusual French- the top restaurant of Caribbean establishment Aruba according to the averaged number two over

the year 2010, earning the staff much-earned the bouquets of flowers which were handed out by the management of Mise en Place Holding. Now, a mere fortnight later, the website published the latest ranking and guess what: 104 excellent reviews, a score of 9.7 and a fabulous number one ranking! The website, which lists the best restaurants on the island through a rating system, is much-visited by tourists as well as locals.

www.restaurantsaruba.com, 'Your on-line dining guide', has a section which indicates the top 5 rated restaurants per year; a top 10 list shows restaurants that have received good reviews throughout the years with the rating and number of reviews listed. Papillon is a relatively new kid on the block, with just



two years in business. The theme-based restaurant has gotten rave reviews from the moment it opened its doors in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort.

Now they hold the number one spot, an incentive for the staff to be even more motivated to excel to keep this position. Congrats, Papillon! □

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HOLIDAY INN RESORT ARUBA SETS 2011 CONSUMER INCENTIVES

Continued from Page A7

To take advantage of the Free Caribbean Wedding program, couples must book a minimum seven-night stay on the all-inclusive plan in a Superior Ocean Front Room. Fees apply for stays less than seven nights.

Military & Government Personnel Discounts

In a salute to U.S. troops and civil servants, the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba is offering exclusive discounts for military and government personnel on all-inclusive resort stays throughout 2011. A Special rate of just \$180 per night for double occupancy is available on bookings made by December 21, 2011 for travel completed by December 23, 2011. Discounts also carry such bonus amenities as a free one room upgrade (subject to availability), free Internet usage within the resort's "Internet Zone", a complimentary welcome bottle of wine, and an upgrade to an oceanfront room for just \$40.

Savings are available in Island View Superior room categories. A two-night minimum stay is required and blackout dates apply between December 23, 2010 and April 29, 2011. Additional blackout dates apply for major holidays. Proper government/military identification must be presented to qualify for discounts and extra amenities. Discounts cannot



be combined with any other promotion or consumer savings and can be withdrawn at any time. Group bookings are ineligible and revisions on current bookings are not permitted.

GoldenSpree Seniors Program

Benefiting those for whom age is just a state of mind, the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba offers an exclusive GoldenSpree program with privileges, amenities and discounts designed to help senior travelers maximize their vacation experiences. The GoldenSpree program is available free of charge to registered guests ages 60 and up, and features a full

range of fun and enriching activities, including dance and cooking classes, karaoke and piano lounge sing-alongs, trivia and bingo games, jazzercise, nature walks, movie nights, shuffleboard and more. In addition to the activities and attentive service, GoldenSpree guests also receive complimentary T-shirts and discounts of 10-20% off purchases made at select shops, restaurants and attractions.

KidSpree Vacation Club

Available free of charge to registered guests, the award-winning KidSpree™ Vacation Club features a full menu of supervised activities for kids between the ages



of six months and 12 years. Kids are separated into three groups – Granny's Nursery (ages six months to three years), Adventurers (ages four to seven), and Wonder Years (ages eight to 12). Each group offers fun games and activities throughout the day. Youngsters enjoy face and T-shirt painting, movies, excursions, board games, play garden, sand castle building and lots more. Older kids delight in volleyball, ping-pong, shuffleboard and a Game Room featuring 13 fun machines. Babysitting services are also available, with all nannies required to carry CPR and first-aid certification, providing parents with peace of mind.

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Human Hints

Karma 1

What goes around comes around. You reap what you sow. Do something good and good things will come to you. Do something bad, and misery will follow. The idea of Karma helps to maintain morals and hold society together. Ah, the deceptive clarity of innocence, where good and bad are black and white. Alas, knowledge and experience increase obscurity, and our wisdom blurs the world into an indecipherable cacophony of ever-changing grey.

On the surface, the ideas of good, bad and karma appear to be relatively clear, with obvious examples everywhere we look. When we consider the fine details, however, good and bad become vague and indecipherable. Good and bad depend on intentions, different points of view, time-frames, personal reactions, chain-reactions, outcomes and an infinite number of other factors.

What if we must hurt others in order to prevent our selves or our families from getting hurt? What if we must kill one in order to save many?

Karma cannot be as straightforward as just feeling the pain that we cause others. Keeping things simple is a priority in my life, but there must be more to it than that. If we simply felt the pain that we cause, our personal karma would depend on other people's reactions to us, which is completely beyond our control. The same act might thrill one person and depress another. We have no say over how people react. Personal karma cannot be dependent on something we cannot affect.

Tomorrow, we will search for a more accurate understanding of personal karma.

Until Tomorrow

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Creationists have gotten clever, but there's still no debate over evolution

Oakland, Calif. – As 2011 gets under way, those who care about the integrity of science education are bracing for the latest round of state legislation aimed at undermining the teaching of evolution in the public schools.

Every year, a host of these bills are filed across the country. In 2008, one was passed in Louisiana, despite protests from scientists and educators. In Oklahoma, State Senator Josh Brecheen has vowed to introduce a bill in the coming legislative session that requires schools to teach “all the facts” on the so-called fallacies of evolution.

The tactics of creationists have evolved since 1925, when Tennessee.

Butler Act forbade the teaching of evolution, and high school biology teacher John Scopes was put on trial for doing so. (Creationists believe that God created the physical universe and all organisms according to the account in Genesis, denying the evolution of species.)

But creationists' tactics have also evolved since 2005, when a federal court in Pennsylvania established that teaching intelligent design (ID) in public schools is unconstitutional.

The judge in the case ruled, “ID is not science” and derives instead from “religious strategies that evolved from earlier forms of creationism.” (Intelligent design holds that “certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.”) The favored strategy of intelligent design proponents and creationists now is to try to undermine the teaching of evolution by arguing that “evidence against evolution.

Religion doesn't belong in public schools, but debate over Darwinian evolution does

The new strategy is craftier but just as bogus.

No debate on evolutionDespite the constant claims of creationists to the contrary,

there simply is no debate among scientists about the validity of evolution. If you search research journals and attend scientific conferences, it becomes readily apparent that while there are controversies over the details of evolution, there is no controversy about the basic fact that living things have descended with modification from a common ancestry.

Scientists argue how evolution happened, not whether evolution happened.

This doesn't stop creationists from imagining they can conjure a debate by repeating the claim that there is evidence against evolution. Intelligent design advocates claim they aren't asking public schools to teach creationism, just the “scientific debate over Darwinian evolution.” The problem, again, is that there is no debate to teach. The National Academy of Sciences, the nation's most prestigious scientific organization, emphasizes, “There is no scientific controversy about the basic facts of evolution.”

If there were credible scientific evidence against evolution, scientists would be the first to discover it, the first to publish it in peer-reviewed journals, and the first to debate its validity and importance. After all, discovering credible scientific evidence against evolution would be a revolutionary accomplishment, worthy of a Nobel Prize. That's why accusations from creationists and intelligent design advocates that scientists are conspiring to suppress evidence against evolution are, to put it mildly, silly.

pagebreak

Creationists are cutting in lineBecause scientists are not debating evolution, it is wrong to teach students otherwise. In public school science classes and textbooks, the basic methods and results of the mainstream scientific consensus are presented not untested fringe ideas, not speculations, but information fully supported by evidence. By demanding to cut in line,

creationists ask to bypass the normal process of verifying scientific claims. They try to misuse public resources to foist their scientifically unwarranted denial of evolution on a captive student audience, and to force their culture war into America's classrooms.

What creationists regard as “scientific evidence” against evolution is really a collection of debunked claims circulating and persisting like urban legends. For example, from the Scopes era to today, creationists have eagerly cited the so-called Cambrian explosion, a 10-million-year period about 530 million years ago when fossils record a blossoming of animal life. Creationists claim that the standard model of evolutionary change is incapable of explaining how so many new kinds of animals could have flourished so quickly.

As Mr. Brecheen, the Oklahoma state senator, recently garbled it, “The main fallacy with Darwinian theory is the sudden appearance at about 540 million years [ago] of fossil records.” (In fact, the earliest fossils were formed about three billion years earlier than that.) The Cambrian explosion, he wrote, “debunks the tree of life” a view not shared by practicing paleontologists.

Selective quotes from real scientistsLacking any substantive evidence to make their case, creationists offer a few selective quotes from real scientists to give their arguments authority. For example, noted National Institutes of Health evolutionary biologist Eugene V. Koonin was recently quoted by a program officer with the leading intelligent design organization (The Discovery Institute) as saying that the modern synthesis of evolution has “crumbled, apparently, beyond repair.” The implication was that Mr. Koonin would agree that there is a scientific debate over evolution that deserves to be taught in the schools. ☐

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Vatican: 1997 Irish abuse letter 'misunderstood'

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — In a new round of damage control, the Vatican has insisted that a 1997 letter warning Irish bishops against reporting priests suspected of sex abuse to police had been “deeply misunderstood.”

The Associated Press on Tuesday reported the contents of the letter, in which the Vatican’s top diplomat in Ireland told bishops that their policy of mandatory reporting such cases to police “gives rise to serious reservations of both a moral and canonical nature.”

The newly revealed letter, obtained originally by Irish broadcaster RTE from an Irish bishop, has undermined persistent Vatican claims, particularly when seeking to defend itself in U.S. lawsuits, that Rome never told bishops not to cooperate with police.

An Irish government-ordered investigation into decades of abuse cover-ups in the Dublin Archdiocese concluded that Irish bishops understood the letter to mean they shouldn’t report suspected crimes.

And victims groups say it’s a “smoking gun” that shows that the church enforced a worldwide culture of concealing crimes by pedophile priests of which Rome bears ultimate — and legal — responsibility.

“The letter confirms that the cover-up goes as far as the Vatican, that Vatican officials knew exactly what was going on, and that they proactively sought to deter Irish bishops from cooperating with civil authorities in Ireland,” said Andrew Madden, a former Dublin altar boy who was raped repeatedly by a priest, Ivan Payne, in the 1980s.

“This letter also documents how the church remained of the view that it is a law unto itself, how its rules and regulations regarding the handling of a criminal offense take precedence over civil society’s laws,” said Madden, who in 1995 became the first victim in Ireland to go public with a lawsuit against the church.

On Wednesday, the Vatican insisted the 1997 letter was only intended to emphasize that Irish bishops must follow church law meticulously. The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the Holy See wanted to ensure that pedophile priests wouldn’t have any technical grounds to escape church punishment on appeal.

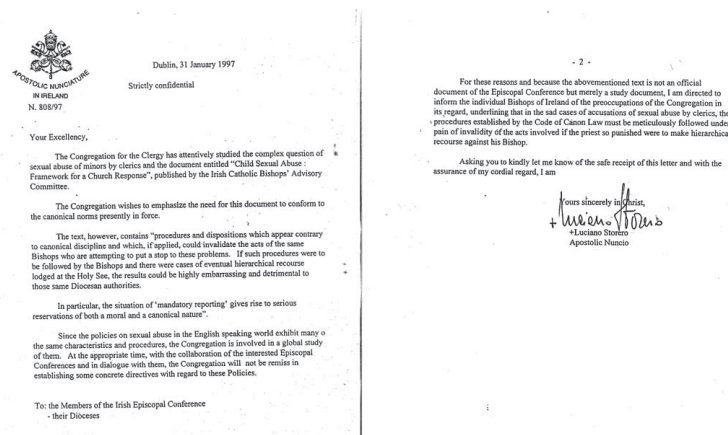
It by no means instructed bishops to disregard civil reporting requirements about abuse, added the Vatican’s U.S. lawyer, Jeffrey Lena, who said the letter had been “deeply misunderstood” by the media.

At the time, there were no such reporting requirements in Ireland. In fact, the Irish bishops were ahead of Irish lawmakers in pledging cooperation with law enforcement as dioceses were hit with the first lawsuits by victims of abusive priests.

Yet as a result of the 1997 letter, most Irish dioceses never implemented the 1996 commitment to report all suspected abuse cases to police, according to the conclusions of the government-mandated investigation into the Dublin Archdiocese published in 2009.

“This in fact never took place because of the response of Rome,” the commission said in its report, although it quoted Dublin Archdiocese officials as saying it was implemented there.

That eight-year inquiry interviewed two senior



This image shows a copy of a newly revealed 1997 letter from the Vatican, obtained by Irish broadcasters RTE and provided to The Associated Press, warning Ireland’s Catholic bishops not to report all suspected child-abuse cases to police, a disclosure that victims groups described as “the smoking gun” needed to show that the Vatican enforced a worldwide culture of cover-up. The letter documents the Vatican’s rejection of a 1996 Irish church initiative to begin helping police identify pedophile priests following Ireland’s first wave of publicly disclosed lawsuits.

Associated Press

Dublin Archdiocese canon lawyers involved in handling abuse complaints. They were quoted as saying the letter discouraged bishops from pursuing their 1996 initiative for fear of being overruled

by Rome, as had already happened in one notorious case of a serial pedophile.

The AP has requested interviews with both officials, Monsignors Alex Stenson and John Dolan. □

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TUNISIA*Continued from Front Page*

Interim President Fouad Mebazaa went on television and promised to live up to the people's revolt, which he called a "revolution."

"Regarding security, you have certainly noticed that it has improved," he said. "We have discovered the leaders of the chaos, and have stopped the gangs and those who put fear in the hearts of people. The situation is moving toward stability."

Some were doubtful of promises of change.

Hafed al Maki, 50, who works at the country's largest insurance company, said he would not wait for the 60-day constitutional limit for new presidential elections to pass "because that is enough time for the old cronies to set their roots in and start their old ways again, thieving and taking our resources. No way that's happening again."

Opposition figures and the prime minister's office have

said that the 60-day limit is unrealistically short, and the delay will more likely be six to seven months.

Swiss officials estimate Tunisian government officials have put about \$620 million into Swiss banks, and the anti-corruption group Transparency International France and two other associations filed suit in Paris alleging corruption by Ben Ali and his wife.

A French government minister said the Tunisian central bank director, Taoufik Baccar, has resigned following widespread rumors that the deposed president's wife fled the country with a stash of gold. The central bank has denied an unsourced report in the French newspaper *Le Monde* that said Leila Trabelsi was believed to have taken 1.5 tons of gold out of the country, possibly bringing it to Switzerland.

But "rumors about that exist, and for that the president of the Central Bank of Tunisia has resigned," Nejib Chebbi, a



Protesters hold a coffin reading "RCD dead" during a demonstration in the center of Tunis, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011. Protesters sang nationalist songs and held up signs with "RCD Out!", referring to Ben Ali's former ruling party, as they rallied on central Avenue Bourguiba.

Associated Press

longtime opponent who took a post in the unity government, told BBC World News.

Chebbi said an investigation would take place.

Tunisia's official TAP news agency also reported that the Central Bank had taken control of Banque Zitouna, a bank founded by a son-in-

law of Ben Ali, to protect the deposits of accountholders and prevent a run on the bank.

The national prosecutor's office moved to investigate overseas bank accounts, real estate and other assets held by Ben Ali, his wife Leila Trabelsi and other relatives. His relations — especially his

wife's family — were seen as corrupt and dominated many businesses in the nation.

The Swiss president said that her country's federal council agreed to freeze any assets in Switzerland belonging to Ben Ali, to help work up a possible criminal case over alleged stolen funds. □

Rights groups call for renewed CIA prison probe

LIUDAS DAPKUS

Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) — Human rights groups have called on Lithuanian prosecutors to reopen a criminal probe into a secret CIA detention center set up in the country, and a top national security lawmaker said Wednesday that investigators had failed to weigh all the evidence. Prosecutors closed the case last week, citing a lack of evidence, but human rights groups Amnesty International and Reprieve slammed the decision, claiming they have evidence that the site was used to interrogate and torture terrorism suspects.

Arvydas Anusauskas, chairman of parliament's national security committee, urged prosecutors to reopen the case and weigh information provided by the groups.

"Two international organizations claim they have solid proof of illegal activities in Lithuania. ... I believe these sources could provide public or nonpublic testimony to Lithuanian officials," he said after meeting with President Dalia Grybauskaitė, who also suggested the case could be reopened if new evidence surfaced.

"Nobody is certain that new information will not emerge," Anusauskas added.

A parliamentary probe in 2009 concluded that although Lithuania, a Baltic country in northeast

Europe, provided two facilities to the CIA, there was no evidence the facilities ever held terrorism suspects.

Prosecutors launched their own investigation to determine whether any crimes had been committed, particularly by Lithuania's top national security officials.

Julia Hall of Amnesty International said prosecutors' decision to close the case was "premature."

"By shuttering the investigation before all the evidence has been gathered and all lines of inquiry pursued, the prosecutor cuts off a process that had the potential to hold people accountable for serious human rights violations," Hall said.

Reprieve said it had provided investigators with confidential information that Abu Zubaydah, a Palestinian repeatedly tortured by U.S. investigators, had been secretly imprisoned in Lithuania between 2004 and 2006. The NGO also said it supplied a list of individuals who could provide testimony — including CIA officials, Lithuanian handlers, and eyewitnesses.

The parliamentary probe determined that Lithuania's top national security agency, the State Security Department, had struck a deal with the CIA in 2002 to create secret "black site" prisons near Vilnius to interrogate terrorist suspects. □

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Moroccan teen says Berlusconi never touched her

ALESSANDRA RIZZO
COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi and the Moroccan teenager at the center of an underage prostitution probe targeting the Italian premier have both denied any sexual contact in separate comments. Berlusconi taped a video message — the second time in a few days — to defend himself on Wednesday from the probe by Milan prosecutors into his encounters with the teenager, nicknamed Ruby Rubacuori (Ruby the Heart-Stealer). The 74-year-old leader charged that the prosecutors used methods worthy of a Mafia criminal and said he would not respond to a summons by the prosecutors this weekend because he does not want to give credence to an investigation he called illegitimate and politically driven.

“There’s nothing I should be ashamed of,” Berlusconi said. “I would like to go on trial immediately — but with impartial judges, not with prosecutors who want to use this case as a means of political fight.”

Prosecutors allege Berlusconi paid for sex with the girl, then a minor, and used his office to cover it up. They have forwarded 389 pages of material, including wiretaps, to parliament to get special

permission to search some of Berlusconi’s properties. Examining the documents will take at least a week, news reports said.

Hours before Berlusconi’s video statement, the teenager appeared Wednesday on a talk show aired on the Mediaset network that the premier founded.

Appearing composed during most of the two 20-minute segments, Ruby said she never worked as a prostitute and that Berlusconi never “put a finger on me.”

Ruby, who asked to be called by her real name during the interview, said she met the premier after winding up at his villa last Valentine’s Day upon an invitation to dinner by a friend.

At the time she was working as a waitress in a Milan restaurant, she said.

She said she introduced herself by her nickname Ruby, and gave her age as 24. She was 17 at the time. She also said she was Egyptian, a lie she said she could not explain.

“He listened without being paid or obligated to do so. I felt heard,” she said. “I told him my whole story in sincerity — except for my name, my (real) age and for my country.”

At the end of dinner, also attended by other young women, Ruby said Berlusconi invited her into his office and

gave her an envelope with €7,000, which she opened in the car.

“I meet him, he gives me €7,000 — and he doesn’t put a finger on me,” Ruby said. “I think I can speak well of a person like that.”

The scandal broke last year when it emerged that Berlusconi had intervened on Ruby’s behalf after she was accused of stealing €3,000 from a friend and detained by Milan police. Reports said at the time that Berlusconi identified her as a relative of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s.

Ruby couldn’t say how many times she met Berlusconi, but said the visits and contact stopped after the night of May 27-28, when she was released by police into the custody of a Berlusconi aide.

The prosecutors allege several encounters occurred at Berlusconi’s villa at Arcore, near Milan, between February and May.

The interview was conducted by Alfonso Signorini, a gossip journalist who is seen as close to Berlusconi. In contrast to photos that show Ruby dressed provocatively — some of which she said were taken from her Facebook page — she wore jeans, a dark blouse and black boots. Her long hair hung in her face as she spoke.

The girl, now 18, talked about a troubled childhood, at one point



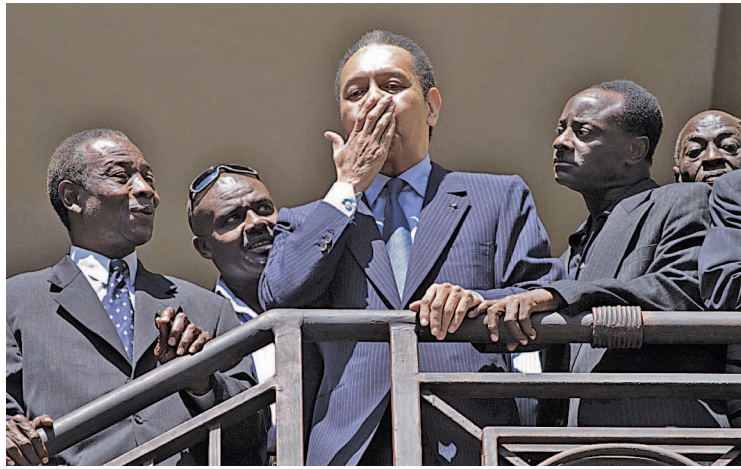
Moroccan girl nicknamed Ruby, whose encounters with Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi are at the base of a prostitution probe which is rocking Italian politics, is interviewed for a television show in Milan, Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011.

Associated Press

with tears in her eyes, and her move to Italy at age 9. While she said she never worked as a prostitute, Ruby said she tried once. But when she undressed and the man put his hands on her, she said she screamed. “He looked at me, he said, ‘Excuse me, isn’t this your work?’” she recounted. “I said ‘No, this is the first time,’” and explained she needed the money — which she said he gave her anyway. The probe has dominated the political scene since prosecutors

confirmed it last week. Critics have called for Berlusconi’s resignation, including during two small demonstrations Wednesday in Rome. In an apparent sign of concern, Berlusconi has appeared in video messages distributed to Italian media twice since Sunday. Still, he has dismissed any suggestion that the scandal might force him to resign. “What, are you crazy?” he said Tuesday night to a journalist asking if he intended to resign. “I’m having fun.” □

Defense attorney: Duvalier plans to remain in Haiti



Haiti's former dictator Jean-Claude 'Baby Doc' Duvalier, center, gestures to supporters on the balcony of his hotel room in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Wednesday Jan. 19, 2011.

BEN FOX

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian authorities want Jean-Claude Duvalier to leave the country, but the once-feared dictator will not go and could even choose to get involved in politics, one of his lawyers said Wednesday. Defense attorney Reynold Georges told reporters that it is Duvalier's right to remain in Haiti, but that he is free to

Associated Press travel. He stressed that Haiti's government has not ordered Duvalier to return to France following his surprise return on Sunday.

"He is free to do whatever he wants, go wherever he wants," Georges said of the once-feared strongman, known as "Baby Doc." "It is his right to live in his country ... He is going to stay. It is his country."

But Duvalier, whose reasons

for coming back to Haiti remain murky, stayed sequestered in his room at the upscale Hotel Karibe in the hills above downtown Port-au-Prince and spoke publicly only through his lawyers. At one point, he went out on his balcony and waved to a small group of supporters on the street. Shortly after his arrival at Port-au-Prince's airport, his longtime companion Veronique Roy told reporters he would stay for just three days. But Georges portrayed the former leader as an esteemed ex-president who might choose to help a small Duvalierist political party during his time in Haiti, though he gave no details on what the help might involve. Georges said a Haitian judge who met with the 59-year-old former leader, who apparently does not have a valid Haitian passport, asked him when he planned to leave.

"They want him to leave," he insisted.

Duvalier, who assumed power in 1971 at age 19 following the death of his notorious father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, faces accusations of corruption and embezzlement for allegedly pilfering the treasury before his 1986 ouster. He returned to Haiti after being exiled for nearly 25 years.

Alice Blanchet, a special adviser to Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, refused to speculate about Duvalier's plans to stay in a country struggling through a dire political crisis following the problematic Nov. 28 first-round presidential election, as well as a cholera epidemic and a troubled recovery from the last year's devastating earthquake.

"Let justice do its job, run its course. He is a citizen and no one is above the law," she said in a Wednesday e-mail, adding that Duvalier "remains available to the prosecutor" while he is in Haiti.

Outside, on the rutted streets of Port-au-Prince, there were no signs of widespread support for Duvalier. When he was led to a courthouse on Tuesday, supporters staged demonstrations on his behalf but they were tiny by Haiti standards. More than half the nation's people are too young to have lived through his government.

Most Haitians who remember the Duvalier years hoped he had left for good, closing an era of terror and repression that began under "Papa Doc." Human rights groups say tens of thousands of people were killed during the 29-year father-and-son dictatorship, while many others were maimed or forced into exile. Haitian authorities moved toward trying Duvalier for alleged corruption and embezzlement committed during his brutal 15-year rule by opening an investigation on Tuesday, but specifics about the probe were scarce. □

More than just the best pizza on the island...

Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Located on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh under-the-stars approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT of the menu is the *Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle* which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.

The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp



bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$8 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$13. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

Opening Hours:

Dinner 5:30 PM - 10:30 PM

For more information or reservations please call Tel: (297) 586-8470

www.casatuaaruba.com



Obama says he would go to Super Bowl if Bears play

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is promising he'll be at the Super Bowl if his beloved hometown Chicago Bears make it in. It's not clear, though, that his off-the-cuff comment represented a firm commitment

— or just a lighthearted moment in a busy day. The Bears would earn a Super Bowl berth if they beat the Green Bay Packers on Sunday. Obama was asked about his plans on Wednesday by reporters being ushered

out of his Oval Office meeting with the president of China.

Obama said laughingly: "Oh, if the Bears are in the Super Bowl, we're going." The Super Bowl is on Feb. 6 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas. □



SPORTS Aruba TODAY



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, January 20, 2011

"BIG NYET"



Mikhail Prokhorov, owner of the New Jersey Nets, talks to reporters before an NBA basketball game between the Nets and the Utah Jazz, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, in Newark, N.J. Prokhorov said he has told the team to end discussions on the Carmelo Anthony deal.

Associated Press
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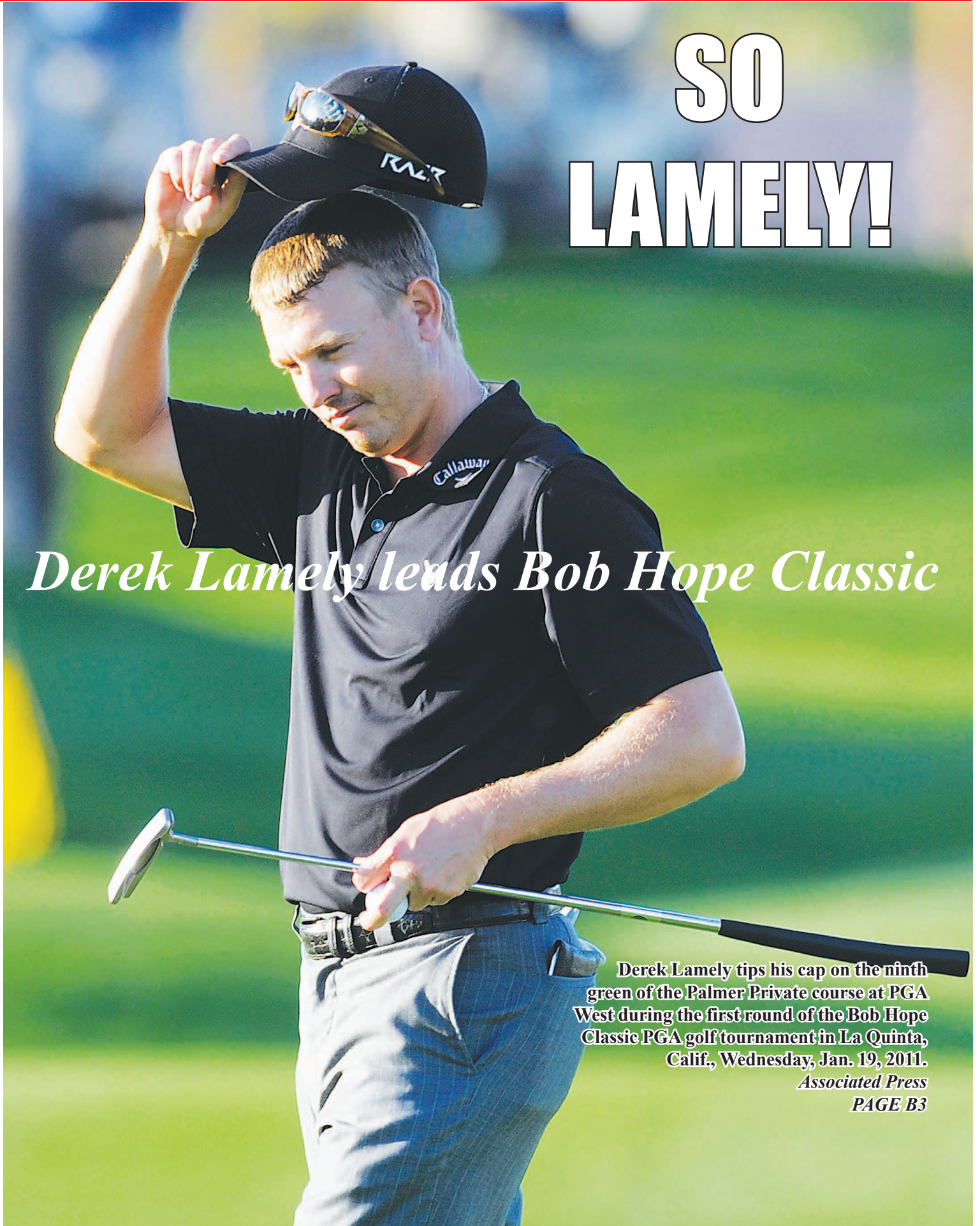
Record 56 leave college early for NFL draft

NEW YORK — Cam Newton and Nick Fairley of national champion Auburn are among 56 non-seniors who applied for April's NFL draft — a record total, but only three more players than left college early a year ago. The uncertainty surrounding the league's labor situation does not appear to have had a significant effect on underclassmen opting to declare for the draft. The NFL released the names on Wednesday, and it's the fifth time in the past seven years that more than 50 players were granted what the league calls "special eligibility."

Continued on Page B4

SO LAMELY!

Derek Lamely leads Bob Hope Classic



Derek Lamely tips his cap on the ninth green of the Palmer Private course at PGA West during the first round of the Bob Hope Classic PGA golf tournament in La Quinta, Calif., Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011.

Associated Press
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NHL Roundup

Penguins get rare penalty goal, beat Red Wings

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Chris Conner scored on Pittsburgh's first successful penalty shot in nearly four years to help the Penguins to a 4-1 win over the injury-thinned Detroit Red Wings in the NHL on Tuesday.

Jordan Staal added his third goal in as many games as the Penguins saw off their Eastern Conference title rival despite the absence of Sidney Crosby. Connor converted a penalty in the first period to make it 2-0, and score Pittsburgh's first penalty in almost precisely four years.

Johan Franzen scored Detroit's only goal.

In Philadelphia, Andrej Meszaros scored 1:07 into overtime to bail out Philadelphia after it blew a third period lead against



Pittsburgh Penguins' Chris Conner (18) slips a penalty shot under the pad of Detroit Red Wings goalie Joey McDonald for a goal in first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011.

in a power play after Tomas Fleischmann sent a pass into the goal crease.

John-Michael Liles and Milan Hejduk also scored for the Avalanche, who beat the Canucks for the first time in five attempts.

Alexander Edler, Ryan Kesler and Sergei Shirokov scored for Vancouver. In Glendale, Arizona, J.P. Dumont got his first hat trick in 9½ years to help Nashville beat Phoenix.

The 32-year-old forward has four career three-goal games, but this was his first since Nov. 12, 2001. After just four goals in his first 45 games this season, Dumont has five in his past two.

In other NHL games it was Anaheim 2, Ottawa 1, SO; Tampa Bay 3, Columbus 2, SO; Philadelphia 3, Washington 2, OT; Pittsburgh 4, Detroit 1; Boston 3, Carolina 2; Buffalo 2, Montreal 1, OT; St. Louis 2, Los Angeles 1; Colorado 4, Vancouver 3, OT; Nashville 5, Phoenix 2; and Minnesota 4, Edmonton 1. □

Associated Press

Washington.

Meszaros scored with a wrist shot just outside the slot that beat Semyon Varlamov.

Jeff Carter and Claude Giroux each scored for the Flyers but Mike Knuble and Alex Ovechkin replied in the third

period to rally the Capitals.

In Denver, David Jones scored two goals, including the winner with 2:52 remaining in overtime, as Colorado downed Vancouver.

Jones lunged at the puck to score the decisive goal late



In this March 1, 2010, file photo. Minnesota Twins' Carl Pavano poses in a Twins baseball uniform in Fort Myers, Fla.

Associated Press

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Baseball Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — The mustache isn't going anywhere.

Carl Pavano and the Twins agreed on a \$16.5 million, two-year contract Wednesday night, ensuring the popular right-hander who made the 'stache cool again in

Twins bring back RHP Pavano for 2 years, \$16.5M

Minnesota will be back to provide stability to the team's rotation.

Pavano had several offers on the table and surprisingly considered a return to the New York Yankees before ultimately deciding to stay with the club that helped the 35-year-old have a career resurgence in 2010.

"I'm excited," Pavano said on a conference call. "When you go through free agency, there's a lot of big decisions that you have. Obviously I couldn't walk away from the rapport I have with my teammates, the staff and the organization."

Pavano went 17-11 with a 3.75 ERA and seven complete games last season to help the Twins win the AL Central title. More impressive for him, he pitched 221 innings, the second-highest total in what had been an injury-plagued career.

"He was in demand," Twins general manager Bill Smith said. "I know he had a lot of teams that called him. The best thing we both had going for us is he kept saying that he wanted to come back to the Twins and we kept saying that he was the one guy we really wanted to get."

Pavano came to Minnesota in a 2009 trade with Cleveland and has been reinvigorated after four tough seasons with the Yankees. Injuries caused him to miss the entire 2006 season and much of three others, and he made only 26 starts for New York.

He was lampooned in the city tabloids as being fragile and couldn't wait to leave after 2008. Despite all the acrimony, Pavano said he has always kept in contact with Yankees GM Brian Cashman and still holds him in high regard. □

SPORTS BRIEFS

NY Jets get Empire State Building fly-by

NEW YORK (AP) — As the New York Jets flew home from their NFL playoffs victory over the New England Patriots, they took a swing past the Empire State Building for a special sight.

The landmark was lighted last weekend in the Jets' colors, green and white. It will happen again next weekend, when they face the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"It was good, man," said defensive end Shaun Ellis, the team's senior player with 11 years as a Jet. "We flew past it and it was great seeing it and seeing how New York is behind us and supporting us. It was really good to see."

According to the New York Post, the Jets' charter was descending toward Newark Liberty Airport on Sunday when the pilot made the request. Air traffic controllers let the jet veer over New Jersey's Hudson River waterfront, about 2½ miles from the building.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters says other flights were not affected. □

Iginla withdraws from NHL All-Star game

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Calgary Flames captain Jarome Iginla has withdrawn from the NHL All-Star game so he can spend time with his ailing grandmother.

Iginla released a statement through the team on Wednesday that said he plans to be with Frances Schuchard on Jan. 28-30, when the NHL is holding its All-Star weekend in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Iginla said his maternal grandparents were "second parents" to him growing up and major influences on his life. His grandfather Richard Schuchard died last May.

Philadelphia Flyers forward Daniel Briere will replace Iginla in the All-Star lineup.

The 33-year-old Iginla has a goal and two assists in five All-Star games (2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009) and was named the Western Conference captain in 2008. □

Derek Lamely leads Bob Hope Classic

GREG BEACHAM,
AP Sports Writer
LA QUINTA, California (AP) — Derek Lamely strung together the longest streak of birdies and eagles on the PGA Tour in nearly four years to shoot a 9-under 63 on Wednesday and take the first-round lead in the Bob Hope Classic.

Lamely played a six-hole sequence in 7-under to take a one-stroke lead over J.J. Henry and Jhonattan Vegas in the four-course event.

He had five birdies and an eagle in his six-hole run for the best stretch on the PGA Tour since Brandt Snedeker strung together an 8-under, seven-hole roll in early 2007 at Torrey Pines.

"The golf courses are perfect," Lamely said. "The weather is just so good. You've just got to go out and stay aggressive every hole. Hopefully you can get hot and make a bunch of

putts, and I actually got that going today."

The 30-year-old was the only American rookie to win last year, although the Puerto Rico Open was an opposite-field event. After making major changes to his grip and swing shortly before winning in Puerto Rico, his biggest goal this winter is to win again in time to qualify for the Masters.

"At the end of last year, I started hitting it good, and I've been hitting it better and better as it goes on," Lamely said. "I keep getting better at the few things I've changed, so it's finally getting to the point where I can think my way around and just make some putts."

Boo Weekley led a pack of six at 65. The group includes Matt McQuillan, who only made it into the Hope field after Donnie Hammond withdrew Wednesday morning.

Henry holed a 132-yard wedge

shot on his first hole at the Nicklaus Private course, but didn't get rolling until making six birdies in eight holes around the turn, finishing his season debut with his best round in seven career appearances at the Hope.

"I've probably never been this excited to start the year, both mentally and physically," Henry said.

"I really felt refreshed and ready to go. (When) I got on the first hole, I had a perfect number with the wedge. You're a little nervous, haven't played a tournament in four months, and I hit this perfect shot that never left the flag."

Henry hasn't won a tournament since the 2006 Buick Championship, and hadn't played since the Deutsche Bank Championships, yet



Derek Lamely watches his tee on the ninth hole of the Palmer Private course at PGA West during the first round of the Bob Hope Classic PGA golf tournament in La Quinta, Calif., Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011.

feels re-energized after taking most of the past four months off from golf while his oldest son started school.

Vegas, the 26-year-old Venezuelan rookie, had an outstanding start to his fifth PGA Tour event, beating the previous best round of his short career by three strokes. He made the cut last week in the Sony Open in Hawaii, but

Associated Press

still didn't get to finish after the field was further trimmed because of weather delays.

"I guess it was a little advantage not playing (in Hawaii) on Sunday, because I was able to get a flight Saturday night, and play this course on Sunday," Vegas said. "I actually got to see all four courses, which is huge for a rookie." □

Woods to open season in San Diego



Tiger Woods reacts to his tee shot on the third hole during the second round of the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club, Friday, Dec. 3, 2010, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Tiger Woods will be starting his season in San Diego. Woods officially entered

the Farmers Insurance Open on Wednesday, which has become the traditional start of his season since 2006. He has won the last five times he played Torrey Pines, including the 2008 U.S. Open in a playoff over Rocco Mediate.

He has not played the PGA Tour stop at Torrey Pines the last two years, missing in 2009 while recovering from knee surgery and last year while dealing with personal problems related to his extramarital affairs.

Woods, who lost his No. 1 ranking to Lee Westwood last year, has not won since the Australian Masters in November 2009.

He said on Twitter: "I've been working hard on my game, it's game time hooah!!" □

Phil Mickelson makes 1st trip to Middle East

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Phil Mickelson has been practicing earlier than usual and has even made his first trip to the Middle East in an attempt to make 2011 his best season yet.

The Masters champion will start his season on Thursday at the Abu Dhabi Championship along with top-ranked Lee Westwood, Graeme McDowell, Retief Goosen and Martin Kaymer in the opening leg of the European Tour's desert swing.

"My goal this year is to have the year I expected 2010 to be. With the exception of the Masters, it wasn't the year I had hoped for," Mickelson said Wednesday. "And so, I've been working hard in the off season to make 2011 the year I believe I can have and the one I had hoped for last year."

Mickelson, who has started playing more in foreign countries recently, is now a regular in Singapore and Shanghai for the end-of-year events.

"I am not exactly a global

player like Gary Player or Ernie Els, not yet. But I'm trying to get there," Mickelson said. "I have way to go to be like Gary or Ernie. But certainly, it is something that I would like to improve. I don't know if I'll ever get to that degree, but I'd like to play more internationally, and it's

really been great for us as a family to be able to experience so many different cultures and learn from them."

Mickelson last played in November at a tournament in Singapore.

"I'm excited to get the year started," the American left-hander said. □

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Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

Chizik wins Bryant Award as college coach of year



Auburn coach Gene Chizik poses with the Paul "Bear" Bryant College Coach of the Year Award Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011, in Houston. Chizik won the award which honors the nation's top college football coach chosen by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

Associated Press

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Auburn coach Gene Chizik won the Paul "Bear" Bryant College Coach of the Year Award on Tuesday night.

Chizik, whose Tigers won the national championship, beat out six other finalists for the honor.

He said he hasn't had time to reflect on his team's perfect 14-0 season and the school's first national title since 1957 because he's been so busy with recruiting.

"You work so hard and you're so demanding on yourself, it's really hard to grasp everything until there's a month or two that passes," he said. "You really don't have time to sit back. A month or two later when it really slows down and you get a chance to back off is when you really realize it."

He said recruiting has also kept him too busy to think about next season.

"I'm not there yet," he said. "We'll get there. We've

moved on to the next phase and that's really finishing up this recruiting year really strong. Next year will get here quick enough. We're trying to finish up and wrap up this year and I'm sure we'll get to that pretty soon."

Chizik was honored to win an award bearing Bryant's name. "As a football coach when you can have your name associated with a guy that's done so much for the sport, it's a blessing," he said.

Former Florida State coach Bobby Bowden was the night's other honoree, receiving the Bryant Lifetime Achievement Award given by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

Bowden, who won two national championships with the Seminoles, said he has always looked up to Bryant. Bowden liked to make the short trip to Tuscaloosa to study Bryant's coaching techniques at Alabama while he was an assistant football coach at Howard College,



In this photo taken Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, Auburn's Nick Fairley reacts after a play during the second half of the BCS National Championship NCAA college football game against Oregon, in Glendale, Ariz. Fairley, Auburn's other big-name star, is heading to the NFL after winning the Lombardi Award and helping teammate Cam Newton lead the Tigers to a national title. The potential No. 1 overall pick announced his decision Friday, Jan. 14, 2011.

Associated Press

NFL DRAFT

Continued from page B1

There were 53 players in 2010 and 2008, the previous high; 52 in 2006; 51 in 2005.

Newton, a quarterback, and Fairley, a defensive tackle, are joined by three other All-American juniors heading to the draft: Kentucky

now known as Samford, in the 1950s.

"I means a lot to me," he said of the award. "When I was coming up my idol was Bear Bryant. He was just 50 miles away when I was at Howard and I was able to go down there and visit and learn football. It really helped me get kicked off on my career."

The awards were given in conjunction with the American Heart Association, a fact not lost on finalist and Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio, who suffered a mild heart attack in September.

"Because the American Heart Association is involved with this it becomes a little bit more special," Dantonio said. "When I was asked to be at the event_ win or lose — I was coming."

He said he's learned a lot about heart disease in the last few months while recovering from his heart attack.

"I've been educated," he said. "Never thought it would ever happen to me and there I was. So it can happen to anybody, and thank God I listened to my body and I'm OK now. There are ways back. That's the thing people have to understand, that you can be strong again. You can do a lot of things again."

The other finalists were Nevada's Chris Ault, Bobby Petrino of Arkansas, Texas A&M's Mike Sherman, Chip Kelly of Oregon and former Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh. Petrino and Harbaugh, the new coach of the San Francisco 49ers, were the only finalists who did not attend

receiver-returner Randall Cobb, Clemson defensive end Da'Quan Bowers and LSU cornerback Patrick Peterson.

There weren't any surprising additions to the list — or omissions. Most underclassmen who were deciding whether to enter the draft had made their choices public by Saturday's deadline to tell the NFL they wanted to leave school early. Players then had 72 hours to withdraw their names, but no significant players changed their minds. One top underclassman not on the list: Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck, who had said he would be returning to school. His father, former NFL quarterback and current West Virginia athletic director Oliver Luck, said they discussed the possible lockout in the league but that wasn't a decisive factor in Andrew's choice.

The draft is April 28-30, even if there is no new collective bargaining agreement to replace the one that expires in early March. If owners lock out the players — as the union expects — rookies wouldn't be able to sign contracts until a new CBA is in place.

Among the factors underclassmen might have considered:

- It's possible there won't be a 2011 NFL season at all, so players leaving college could

wind up sitting out an entire year.

- Even if an agreement is reached in time for next season to be played, the timing of a deal might result in shortened training camps or no minicamps, so a rookie would have less time to learn his new team's system and prove he deserves to start — or, in some cases, even make the roster.

- Owners are intent on having a rookie wage scale be part of a new CBA. Commissioner Roger Goodell wrote about "the outrageous sums paid to many unproven rookies" in a recent letter sent to fans about the labor situation, and such a change could apply to the 2011 draft class.

- Entering the pros sooner starts a player's NFL "clock" sooner, moving him closer to his second contract and free agency, which could be particularly attractive if a rookie wage scale is created. Still, in a telephone interview before last weekend's deadline, agent Peter Schaffer said he didn't think a potential lockout was affecting decisions.

"I really don't believe the uncertainty of the labor situation is skewing decisions one way or another in any significant proportion," Schaffer said. "It's pretty much been business as usual."q

Aruba TODAY

JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS

Packers' best way to stop Hester: Don't punt

CHRIS JENKINS

AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin (AP) — The Green Bay Packers have devised and tested the ideal solution to stopping dangerous punt returners such as the Chicago Bears' Devin Hester.

Just don't punt.

It worked perfectly in their rout of the Atlanta Falcons in last weekend's NFL playoffs.

Thanks to a dominant performance by the Packers offense, punter Tim Masthay wasn't called into action against the Falcons. That doesn't seem likely to happen again in Sunday's NFC Championship game in Chicago, especially against a tough Bears defense.

That means the Packers' special teams will once again have their hands full with Hester, the NFL's career leader in combined punt and kick returns for touchdowns with 14.

From one punt returner to another, Green Bay's Tramon Williams is impressed.

"Natural ability," he said. "From watching film, everything he does is great. He has the vision and the ability, everything. ... Coach said he's the best ever, so I feel the same way."

Indeed, Packers coach Mike McCarthy called Hester the "best player on their football team" before playing the Bears in the regular season finale — a significant statement, given the fact that defensive end Julius Peppers and linebackers Brian Urlacher and Lance Briggs anchor the Bears' defense.

The Packers allowed Hester to break free for a 62-yard touchdown on a punt return during the teams' first meeting, a 20-17 Bears victory in Chicago on Sept. 27.

But the Packers did a much

better job bottling Hester up in the teams' second meeting of the season, allowing Hester only two punt returns for 35 yards in a 10-3 Packers victory at Lambeau Field that allowed the Packers to clinch a playoff spot.

McCarthy said the Packers' improved effort was a combination of good ball placement by Masthay — who has improved after a shaky start — and good coverage by the special teams.

"Our special teams played extremely well in that football game," McCarthy said. "And that will be a big part of going into Soldier Field and being successful."

But one blown assignment or sloppy arm tackle on Sunday, and Hester could make a momentum-changing return.

Packers linebacker A.J. Hawk says Hester is at his most dangerous when he's not dancing around.

"When he gets the ball, he might make a few moves, make the first guy miss," Hawk said. "He gets vertical quick. When a guy does that — as you've seen against us, he got one earlier this year on us — they can crease you pretty quick and he can get in the end zone fast."



In this Dec. 20, 2010, file photo, Chicago Bears' Devin Hester (23) runs back a punt 64-yards for a touchdown during the second half an NFL football game, in Minneapolis. The return was Hester's NFL-leading 14th career return for a touchdown.

Associated Press

And the Packers have some coverage concerns on special teams after allowing a 102-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Atlanta's Eric Weems.

"Frankly, the kickoff return was a combination of ball placement and coverage," McCarthy said. "And that's the reason why you practice those things and you have different types of calls. And so that's something I'm sure Chicago will be taking a close look at. We've been playing very well on special teams but can't let it happen this week."

Hester, meanwhile, is so

good that he even can get a laugh out of his typically buttoned-down Bears coach Lovie Smith, who was asked recently to imagine trying to prepare for him instead of preparing with him.

"I definitely like being on the team with a guy like

Devin Hester," Smith said, laughing. "I can see how opposing coaches would feel trying to figure out what to do with him, whether to kick it to him. Eventually, you have to kick it to him. I just don't see how you can go an entire game without it." □

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Nets owner tells team to drop Anthony deal

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

NEWARK, N.J. — Cross another superstar off the New Jersey Nets' wish list, and let the pursuit of Carmelo Anthony begin anew.

The megadeal to bring Anthony to New Jersey ended in stunning fashion on Wednesday night when Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov told the team to end the long, drawn-out trade talks with the Denver Nuggets.

"There comes a time when the price is simply too expensive," Prokhorov said in a news conference before the Nets faced the Utah Jazz. "I am instructing our team to walk away from the deal."

In the past two weeks, the talks had taken on a soap-opera feeling and the Russian billionaire felt it had hurt his team.

"Really, I am not happy with the way the deal has gone until now," said Prokhorov, who fielded questions in English and Russian. "It has taken too long. It has been played out in public. The uncertainty

has taken a toll on the players ... and I believe it has cost us several games."

The Nets have lost six straight, including all four on a just-completed West Coast road trip that ended in Oakland on Monday.

Prokhorov also canceled a planned meeting with Anthony on Thursday and said there was no chance — that's a big nyet — that the trade would be resurrected.

Denver general manager Masai Ujiri declined to answer questions about the Nets' decision, beyond saying the Nuggets have been in talks "with plenty of teams" regarding Anthony and insisting he harbored no ill will toward the Nets for calling off talks.

Nuggets coach George Karl said he wasn't surprised that Prokhorov pulled the plug on this deal.

"I think I've been one of the guys who have been kind of hinting to you that this is a lot farther away from happening than you all think it's going to be," Karl said. "But we've



Denver Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony prepare for the tip off prior to the the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011 in San Antonio.

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Hawks beat Heat to close gap

MIAMI (AP) — Josh Smith made a go-ahead layup with 34.7 seconds left in overtime to give the Atlanta Hawks a 93-89 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday, cutting the gap between the top two Southeast Division teams to two points.

Joe Johnson scored 19 points, including a game-tying layup with 25.4 seconds left in regulation and two game-sealing free throws with 5.2 seconds remaining in overtime. Jamal Crawford also scored 19 for Atlanta.

LeBron James scored 34 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Miami, but missed a long 3-pointer at the end of regulation and another 28-foot try as the shot clock was expiring late in overtime and the Heat down by two.

The Heat has lost four in a row, blowing a chance at the end of regulation by choosing not to call time-out for a final



Atlanta Hawks' Jamal Crawford (11) is congratulated by Joe Johnson, second from left, Maurice Evans (1), and Mike Bibby (10) after shooting a three-pointer in overtime during an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat in Miami, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011. The Hawks defeated the Heat 93-89 in overtime.

Associated Press

play. James' 28-footer then banged off the side of the rim just before the buzzer.

Bobcats 83, Bulls 82

In Chicago, a shot on the buzzer by Derrick Rose missed and Charlotte held on to edge Chicago.

D.J. Augustin scored 15 points and Gerald Wallace had 13

got a fun game, a hell of a team to play against tonight ... and I'm more excited

about that than my billionaire friend from Russia kind of throwing another curveball or knuckleball into the process.

"If it's true, it's true. If it isn't true, it isn't true," Karl added. "If it's a ploy in the negotiation, that's for the guys upstairs to figure out."

There were reports Wednesday that Anthony's representatives had let the Nuggets know that the 26-year-old forward was interested in playing for the Chicago Bulls. Houston and the Knicks also have been mentioned in trade talks involving Anthony.

The deal between the Nets, Nuggets and Detroit Pistons was huge in name power and the number of players.

New Jersey had offered to ship six players and at least two first-round draft picks to Denver in a three-team deal that would have sent Anthony to the Nets along with former Pistons teammates Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton. Prokhorov decided Tuesday to end talks with the Nuggets, and general manager Billy King said he informed them via a text message as Prokhorov was speaking on Wednesday.

Prokhorov said the Nets

received permission from Denver to talk with Anthony on Monday night, but he never spoke to the All-Star forward. "Maybe he sent me an e-mail but I never use computer, that's why, maybe, I missed it or maybe carrier pigeon got lost," Prokhorov said.

Since Prokhorov took over the team last year, the Nets have tried but failed to land a superstar.

Prokhorov personally led the Nets' delegation in free agency talks with LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade in July, and he said the decision to pursue Anthony since the start of training camp was purely based on basketball.

However, Prokhorov showed he didn't make billions waiting for other people to make decisions. When he got fed up, he said enough.

"I am not ready to overpay," Prokhorov said. "As soon as you make a mistake, you can wait for the next chance for the next five or six years. That's why I prefer to be really patient."

Prokhorov even showed a touch of sarcasm when asked if King tried to talk him out of the decision. □

Federer survives 2nd-round scare in Australia

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) —

Defending champion Roger Federer admitted he was lucky to survive a major scare at the Australian Open on Wednesday, beating Gilles Simon 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3 in the second round.

For a while, it seemed as if Simon, who had beaten Federer in their only two previous meetings, would send the Swiss star packing out of a Grand Slam before the third round for the first time since the French Open in 2003 — a total of 31 majors.

Simon is one of only three players on the ATP Tour to hold a winning record against the Swiss star, although Federer cut the margin. Simon's series lead is now 2-1.

Federer's win came on a day when one of the other stars of the tournament — fourth-seeded Venus Williams — nearly had to withdraw with a hip injury after the first set of her match, but recovered to advance to the third round. Federer, pumping his fist increasingly in celebration with each point in the final few games, broke Simon's service in the sixth game of the deciding set to go up 4-2, held his service to go up 5-2, then again held his serve two games later to clinch it on his fifth match point with an ace.

"I'm happy I survived a scare like today.

It's not the first time," he said. "It does happen, and you just try to stay calm even though I'm not playing for much. He's playing for the huge upset, and I'm just trying to get through. So it's not easy."

Federer said he remained positive.

"It paid off. I got lucky. I'm happy I'm still in the tournament," the 16-time

major winner said. "I wasn't playing poorly in the third and fourth set, but Gilles took it to me. Clearly, he's a great player first of all. Matches against him don't come easily ... hopefully we don't play each other anymore!"

Simon said he needed "time to get used to (Federer's) game," which helped him win the third and fourth sets.

"It's going fast, he's moving fast, it's just impressive," Simon said.

"There are not too many players able to play to this level."

Williams also had some drama getting through to the third round, overcoming a painful injury to beat Sandra Zahlavova of the Czech Republic 6-7 (6), 6-0, 6-4.

Novak Djokovic, Andy Roddick, top-seeded woman Caroline Wozniacki, last year's finalist Justine Henin and 2008 champion Maria Sharapova also advanced.

Williams seemed to have the narrowest escape. Writhing in pain and clutching near her stomach as she walked back to her court-side chair, a WTA trainer was called and Williams took a medical timeout after the first-set tiebreaker. She appeared to be on the verge of retiring, and certainly was on the verge of tears. But a few minutes later, she returned with her upper right thigh taped and later said she injured her "psoas" muscle, which flexes the hip and spinal column. That maintained her record of never retiring in a major tournament.

No. 3 Djokovic beat Ivan Dodig 7-5, 6-7 (10), 6-0, 6-2. Djokovic, who beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the 2008 final in Melbourne Park for his only Grand Slam title, is in career-best form.

He appeared comfortable all over the court against

Croatia's Dodig, who nevertheless challenged Djokovic in the first two sets with a powerful serve and strong baseline shots. Djokovic answered with his own baseline winners into back corners on both sides, as well as cross court volleys on the odd occasion. Dodig sliced to draw him to the net.

Djokovic will next play his Davis Cup teammate Viktor Troicki after the 29th-seeded player beat Frenchman Nicolas Mahut 6-4, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

Wozniacki advanced with a 6-1, 6-0 win over American Vania King in the Danish player's first major as No. 1. The 20-year-old reached the third round for a 13th consecutive Grand Slam.

To get to the semis, Wozniacki might have to beat seven-time Grand Slam winner Henin, who continued her comeback from injury with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Elena Baltacha of Britain.

The pair could meet in the quarterfinals. Henin will have to get through a tough match against two-time major winner Svetlana Kuznetsova just to get past the third round. The 23-seeded Kuznetsova beat Dutch qualifier Arantxa Rus 6-1, 6-4.

"I have a lot of good memories, almost all good memories, from Melbourne," said Henin, the 2004 Australian champion and runner-up here in 2006 and last year, when she was returning from a career break from the tour.

No. 8 Victoria Azarenka, the 2010 quarterfinalist who lost to Serena Williams each of the past three years, beat Andrea Hlavackova 6-4, 6-4. Serena Williams is injured and not defending her title in Australia.

In other matches, Barbora Zahlavova Strycova of the Czech Republic beat



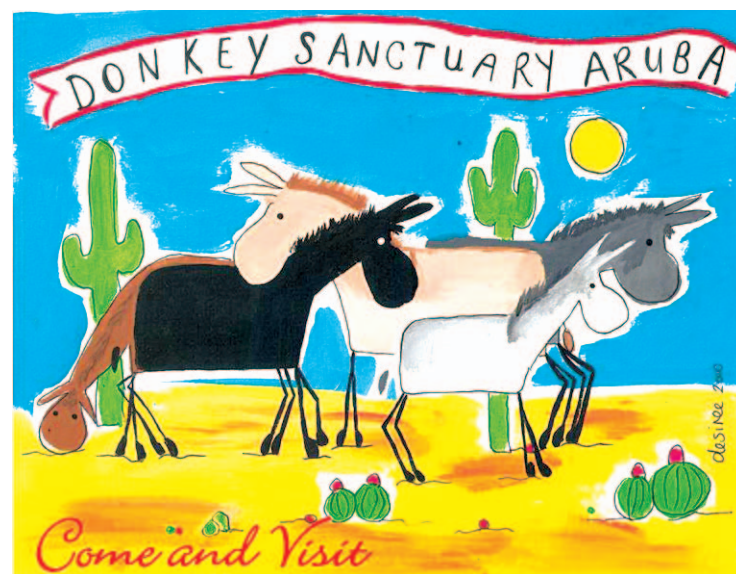
Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after winning a point against Gilles Simon of France during their second round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011.

Associated Press

Australian wild card Jelena Dokic 7-6 (3), 6-1, and No. 9 Li Na defeated Evgeniya Rodina of Russia 6-3, 6-2. On the men's side, Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych needed four match points to beat Philipp Kohlschreiber 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, and eighth-seeded Roddick fired his 17th ace to finish off a 7-6 (7), 6-2, 6-3 second-round win over Igor Kunitsyn of Russia. The former No. 1-ranked Roddick is into the third round at Melbourne Park

for the ninth straight time. "When you're confident, the court just makes sense; decisions come easier to you," he said.

Roddick's U.S. Davis Cup teammate Mardy Fish made a second-round exit, the No. 16 seed losing 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 to Tommy Robredo. And ninth-seeded Fernando Verdasco rallied from two sets down to beat Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (0), 6-0, conceding just one point on his serve in the last set. □



Armstrong says not worried by new doping claims



ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Lance Armstrong says he has nothing to worry about “on any level” over new doping allegations raised in a report by Sports Illustrated.

The seven-time Tour de France winner curtly brushed aside questions about the story Wednesday before taking part in the second stage of the Tour Down Under cycle race.

The story challenged Armstrong’s statements that he cut ties to an Italian doctor and training adviser who has long been accused of helping cyclists cheat.

Armstrong repeatedly refused to comment on the report Wednesday before saying he had perused it and “I have nothing to worry about on any level.”

Johan Bruyneel, Armstrong’s mentor and the manager of this Radio Shack team, also refused to discuss the report.

Without naming its source, Sports

Lance Armstrong of the United States, riding for Radio Shack, gets ready for the Tour Down Under bicycle racing prologue at Adelaide, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011.

Associated Press

Illustrated said that when Italian authorities raided the home of Armstrong teammate Yaroslav Popovych last November in Italy, they found texts and e-mails linking the Radio Shack team with Dr. Michele Ferrari as recently as 2009.

Armstrong severed his connection with Ferrari in 2004, amid accusations the doctor aided another rider in using performance-enhancing drugs. Ferrari was convicted and then later cleared of criminal charges on appeal.

Armstrong spokesman Mark Fabiani calls the report “old news from the same old, discredited sources.”

A U.S. federal grand jury in Los Angeles has been hearing evidence for months on cheating in professional cycling. The investigation turned toward Armstrong — and several of his associates have testified before the panel — since ex-teammate Floyd Landis accused the seven-time Tour de France winner of systematic doping.

Armstrong won the Tour de France every year from 1999 to 2005. He’s currently competing in the Tour Down Under in Australia, which he says will be his last race outside the United States. □

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Eyes-on with the Nintendo 3DS

At last, I've had a chance to spend quality time with the 3DS, Nintendo's new glasses-free 3D handheld and yes, it lives up to the hype, although I found that a little 3D on the 3DS's 3.53-inch display goes a long way.

Slated to arrive in the U.S. on March 27 for \$249, the 3DS looks pretty much like the DSi, complete with the usual dual displays, the DS slot, and the standard D-pad.

Take another look, though, and you'll spot the new analog stick on the left side of the console, as well as the twin 0.3MP cameras on the top cover for taking 3D pictures. (Click here for more specs, launch titles, and other details.) Of course, the feature we've all be waiting for is hinted at by the little 3D slider on the right side of the display, which controls the depth of the 3D image on the main 3DS; slide it all the way down for standard 2D, or all the way up for extreme, eye-crossing 3D.

So, how does it the 3D image look? For the most part, really good far better

than I was expecting, in fact. There's a real sense of depth to the image, with the action appearing to stretch well behind the screen.

View the 3DS from an angle, through any angle and the 3D effect falls apart, and the higher up you push the 3D slider, the more you'll feel like your eyes are starting to cross. I also noticed a second or two of double-vision before my eyes adjusted to the 3D effect. For the most part, I preferred to keep the 3D slider barely nudged on, for a subtler but less queasy effect. (Needless to say, the two 2D pictures that I've embedded in this post hardly do justice to the 3DS's display.)

Nintendo reps had a few pretty 3D demos teed up before Wednesday's launch event; after the big announcement, though, the curtains on the side of the room opened to reveal demo stations where we could try a selection of 3D-enabled 3DS launch games.

First up: Ridge Racer 3D, a typical racing game with such glorious 3D vistas that I had a

tough time keeping my eyes on the road. The more you push the 3D slider control, the cooler the soaring cityscapes look; at the same time, though, I could feel a bit of eye strain when I had the 3D effect pushed too far. Easy does it.

Next, I gave Dead or Alive: Dimensions a try, and again, the 3D effect looked great as I threw furious punches under a rushing waterfall. Still, it took some fiddling to get the right balance between a noticeable 3D effect and a setting comfortable enough for prolonged gaming, while a few isolated double-vision moments proved a bit distracting. Another interesting 3D title was Nintendo's first-party Pilotwings Resort, a casual flying game that lets you float around the Wii Sports resort village in a biplane, a hang glider, or a jet pack. Dialing up the 3D effect made the flight look pretty extraordinary, giving the hills and mountains an almost majestic look on the 3DS's relatively tiny 3.53-inch display. Nice, but the longer I



flew around, the more I could feel the eye strain creeping in and backing off the 3D effect turns Pilotwings Resort into a relatively tepid affair.

Last but not least, I tried my hand at a little zombie killing in Resident Evil Mercenaries 3D, a game that might benefit the least from 3D mainly because I was too busy staggering away from a hoard of bloodthirsty baddies to notice the newfound depth of the game's grimy world.

Nitpicks aside (and based on very limited testing, of course) I'd call the 3D display on the 3DS a success, and an impressive feat on Nintendo's part although for gamers, the 3D effect will probably work best if used sparingly.

The true test of the 3DS will only come, of course, once we've had the chance to game on the console for more than a few minutes at a time and for that, we'll have to wait until March 27. □



Microsoft has released a notes app to integrate with its Windows Live service, but it's only free for a limited time.

We've got the details below in our Fresh Apps list, along with a streaming media player, and an app from TiVo that will probably help hinder your productivity but you'll definitely be entertained.

TiVo (iPad) Free

Owners of TiVo's Premiere box will find lots of use in the company's iPad app,

which basically functions as a TiVo controller that lets you search for shows and give instructions to the box without using its on-screen interface. Using your iPad, you can browse for the things you want recorded while you watch other things you've recorded pretty slick.

The app gives you full control of your TiVo box, complete with the ability to search for shows and set either single or Season Pass recordings for them. You can trigger a

Fresh iPhone Apps for Jan. 19: TiVo, AirView, OneNote

show to start playing from your iPad, browse a full-screen program guide while watching another show on your TV, and set recordings while you're away from home. TiVo turns your iPad into a giant, multifunctional remote if you use the service, you're going to want this app.

AirView (iPhone, iPad) Free
This free app allows you to turn your device into a streaming media player, drawing its material from another iPhone or iPad, or from your PC or Mac. It's a little unstable and probably won't last long in the App Store, but it's also free and has some great functionality when it works.

Fire up your AirPlay app on

the device you want to watch on, and load a video on another device, like iTunes. In the video window, you should see an AirPlay icon click it, and the program automatically detects your receiving device and streams the video over a local Wi-Fi network to the other device. AirPlay seems to work best for YouTube and downloaded videos.

It doesn't support music or photos yet, but app developer Clement Vasseur has written that he plans to add other media types. That is, if Apple doesn't bounce this highly functional but free app from the App Store before then.

OneNote (iPhone) Free
Microsoft's Windows Live-integrated note-taking app

is free for a limited time to celebrate its release, and if you like Windows Live services for your computer, you'll probably find what you need in OneNote. It lets you take notes and set up to-do lists on your iPhone, while syncing them against lists you keep on Windows Live so you can always keep up with your work and plans. Even better, it does so in the background, so you're always fully up to date.

You'll need a free Windows Live web account to use OneNote, but once you're set up, the app will integrate with your settings over the Internet. It's also organized to keep your more recent and pressing notes easy to find, so you can save time in finding what you need. □

Jazz pianist to perform at state dinner

WASHINGTON – It'll be jazz on the stage and prominent Chinese-Americans in the audience Wednesday as Michelle and Barack Obama pump out some high-octane pomp at a state dinner for Chinese President Hu Jintao. Action film star Jackie Chan is part of the celebrity quotient for the big party.

Mrs. Obama warmed up for the evening with a morning appearance before students at Howard University, where she confessed that it had been "a pretty busy morning at the White House."

Jazz pianist Peter Martin, part of the entertainment lineup, prepped for his appearance by springing for a tux.

"I'm finally a grown-up, graduated from renting to owning," he tweeted, adding that he was "super-excited" about the White House gig.

Jazz artists Dianne Reeves and Herbie Hancock are also part of the evening playlist, Martin tweeted before all of his tweets disappeared.

The White House is always anxious to keep details about the guest list, the menu and the full entertainment lineup hush-hush until later in the day.

But a few details trickled from some of those tickled to be part of the lavish affair.

Among those confirmed on the strictly A-list guest list: the newly inaugurated



Sting meets dolphin advocate, hopes for debate

TOKYO – Sting wants to help save dolphins still being brutally slaughtered in Japan, but says the best way is by starting a debate, not by forcing foreign opinion.

The British music star met backstage at a Tokyo concert hall Wednesday with Ric O'Barry, the star of the "The Cove," the Academy Award-winning documentary that depicts the dolphin hunt in the town of Taiji in southwestern Japan.

The two have been friends since the Sundance Film Festival two years ago, where "The Cove" had its first major showing. The film, directed by Louie Psihoyos, shows dolphins driven into a cove and stabbed by fishermen on small boats, turning the water red with blood, as the dolphins writhe in agony.

"I was blown away by the movie," Sting told The Associated Press before his concert. "We should not be eating dolphins." Sting, in Asia for his "Symphonicity" tour, said he's sympathetic to the save-the-dolphins view in "The Cove" but that the best approach is "through dialogue," noting that many Japanese are also outraged by dolphin killing.

O'Barry said Sting and his wife were among the first people to express support for "The Cove." The former Police frontman has spoken out on environmental and humanitarian issues around the world.

He told O'Barry to stay optimistic, assuring him that word was getting out about overfishing and depletion of the oceans.

More in Entertainment

The New Royals: Insight on Prince William & Kate Middleton's wedding

Chinese-American mayors of San Francisco and Oakland, Calif., Edwin Lee and Jean Quan, respectively. Also, Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif. Members of Obama's Cabinet with seats at the table include Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

More in Entertainment

The New Royals: Insight on Prince William & Kate Middleton's wedding

Full coverage of the royal wedding on Yahoo! News Complete entertainment coverage

Among those sitting this one out: House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who also declined past state dinner invites from Obama. Also taking a pass: Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., whose aides said they were traveling.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., is the only top congressional leader who accepted the invitation. She has been an outspoken critic of China's human rights record throughout her career.

After a fancy morning arrival

ceremony for Hu at the White House, Mrs. Obama met with the students to frame the day's events both social and substantive as an "important opportunity to strengthen ties and deepen bonds of understanding."

And she encouraged young Americans to study abroad something she never did.

The first lady said she and her brother, Craig, were among the first in their family to go to college.

"We were way more focused on getting in, getting through and getting out," she said.

New Allman album hits 7 months after transplant

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – When Gregg Allman asked his doctors for permission to start touring again just a few months after a liver transplant, he got quizzical looks.

"They said, 'Well, we're going to give you a pass and sign you out — but are you crazy?'" Allman said. "I actually think that it had to do in the big step in healing up that happened after I went on the road."

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member, who this week releases "Low Country Blues," his first solo recording in 14 years, has experienced the healing power of music firsthand. Allman had his transplant on June 23 after hepatitis and the rock-star life left him in a state of deteriorating health. He knew

the operation and recovery would be challenging, but he found it far more painful than he imagined it would be.

"They don't tell you about a lot of it because they don't want to scare you, you know," the 63-year-old said in a phone interview.

Allman found relief in music. He was playing the guitar and piano again several weeks after the surgery and slowly worked his way back on stage. "That's kind of like the planet of no pain, being on stage," Allman said. Allman was left with a noticeable shake in his hands from immune system-depressing drugs meant to keep his body from rejecting the new liver. Music seems to help there, too. The shaking stops when he lays his hands



on his piano or guitar.

Allman has a theory about the therapeutic power of music.

"I think it's because you're doing something that you truly love," he said. "I think it just creates a diversion from the pain itself. You've been swallowed up by something you love, you know, and you're just totally engulfed."



American Express quarterly profit misses estimate



NEW YORK – American Express Co (AXP.N) reported quarterly earnings that narrowly missed Wall Street estimates and said it would cut 550 jobs as it handles more customer services on the Internet.

The company's shares were down 2.7 in afternoon trading after the credit card lender and payment processing network said it earned \$1.1 billion, or 88 cents per share, in the fourth quarter. That included a charge of \$74 million, or 6 cents per share, for job cuts and the closure of customer service centers.

Excluding the charge, the company's profit of 94 cents a share missed analysts' average estimate by one cent, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

The earnings miss was an unpleasant surprise to some investors, considering positive trends on spending volume and credit. American Express Chief Executive Kenneth Chenault cited "record levels" of customer spending on their credit cards, and said credit losses continued to shrink.

The job cuts also revived investor concerns that financial regulation could hurt the company's future growth. "You always want to be rationalizing your existing operations to be more efficient

but if they were expecting a robust growth environment, you might not be seeing significant head count cuts," said Intrepid Ventures payments consultant Eric Grover.

Investors are wary of the potential effect of increasing U.S. financial regulation on American Express. The company's shares fell about 8 percent last month, before largely recovering, after the Federal Reserve proposed rules that would slash the fees that merchants pay banks every time a customer buys something with a debit card. While American Express does not have a debit card business, its credit card fees are some of the highest in the industry, and investors are worried that it will lose business as merchants ask customers to pay with cheaper debit cards. The Fed's rules will indirectly "have a negative impact on AmEx that's a big deal," Grover said. "If merchants are in a position to discount, AmEx is going to get whacked in a big way, and they're going to have to bring down their pricing."

American Express shares were down 3.1 percent to \$44.91 in afternoon trading.

MOVING JOBS AROUND Sandler O'Neill analyst Michael Taiano said the

company may have decided to reinvest more of its profit in marketing and technology rather than reserve it for earnings.

He also said American Express spooked investors by reporting earnings on Wednesday but making the Street wait until Monday for a full explanation. The fourth-quarter results were not due until Monday.

"The problem with doing something like this is, you give the bottom line number without all the details and people start to speculate," he said.

Even including the restructuring charges, American Express' profit will rise by nearly half from the year-earlier \$716 million, or 60 cents a share. Declining loan losses let the company reduce the amount of money set aside for bad loans, boosting profit.

More American Express customers are handling routine matters through the Internet and their smartphones, reducing the number of telephone calls to the company's service centers. The company said it has left many customer service jobs vacant after employees leave, which means it is now paying rent and other real estate costs for centers that are too large for its needs.

About 3,500 jobs will be affected by the changes in customer service, including about 3,000 that will be moved to different locations. The company will close a customer service center in Greensboro, North Carolina, and send the jobs to its three other U.S. customer service locations, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Phoenix, Arizona; and Salt Lake City, Utah. □



American Airlines parent AMR loses \$97M in 4Q

DALLAS – American Airlines is doing much better than a year ago, thanks to higher fares and money from extra fees, but it's still losing money.

The nation's third-largest airline is pinning hopes for a turnaround on putting more high-dollar business travelers on international flights and trips between a few major U.S. cities. Even if that strategy works and some analysts like it American still faces huge challenges ranging from rising fuel costs to an ugly fight with travel agencies that has made it harder to find American flights online.

American parent AMR Corp. said Wednesday it lost \$97 million in the fourth quarter, or 29 cents per share. That's a smaller loss than AMR posted a year ago, and it beat the forecast of analysts, who expected a loss of 36 cents per share, according to FactSet. Revenue jumped 10.3 percent, to \$5.59 billion better than analysts expected. Airfares have risen as airlines limited flights and filled planes with more passengers. The average American flight in 2010 had 81.9 percent of the seats filled that's a record. The airlines have also raised money by imposing a variety of fees. At AMR, the catchall category of "other revenue," which includes baggage fees and food sales, grew 2.9 percent in the fourth quarter, to \$599 million.

But the boost in revenue wasn't enough to offset rising fuel costs. AMR, which also owns regional carrier American Eagle, paid \$1.66 billion for fuel in the fourth quarter, a 12.9 percent increase in a year.

Even more troubling, the company expects fuel costs to rise by at least another \$1 billion this year. CEO Gerard Arpey called that "the most worrisome threat we see."

AMR shares fell 38 cents, or 4.6 percent, to \$7.91 in afternoon trading.

Texas-based AMR lost \$471 million for all of 2010. When the major U.S. airlines finish reporting results next week, AMR is expected to be the only one to show a loss for the full year.

There are several reasons why AMR lags competitors. It faces tougher government restrictions on international service, trails Delta and United in the important trans-Pacific market, faces higher labor and pension costs, and operates older planes.

Arpey's plan to turn things around includes boosting traffic over the Pacific and Atlantic in deals with partners British Airways and Japan Airlines. American finally won antitrust immunity for those business ventures. In the U.S., he focused intently on five big cities including New York and Los Angeles while downplaying others.

Both moves are aimed at attracting business travelers, who typically pay higher fares than leisure passengers. □



I come from a family with a rich history of mental health struggles. Some have very serious psychiatric disorders not discovered until adulthood due to lapses in the health care system. They would be continually treated for one thing or another, which were only symptoms, only to discover much later the true underlying cause.

This was true with my struggle with anorexia nervosa and obsessive compulsive disorder. My story began when I was a preteen, although I showed symptoms of OCD even younger than that. I was in and out of clinics and hospitals and treated for everything, from gastrointestinal problems to immune disorders. My condition was not diagnosed

First Person: Mental Health Woes from Anorexia Complicated Pregnancies

until serious medical problems arrived and when I became pregnant with my first child. I finally admitted I needed help because I feared for the life of my unborn baby. No medicines treat anorexia, but after my diagnosis, I was prescribed antidepressants for anxiety and depression for the first six to eight weeks and put through strenuous counseling and behavior therapy. I realized I needed help. At first, without the medication, I was not very cooperative in the treatment process. The first couple of medications were not helpful, but I did successfully take Zoloft. For the first two weeks, counseling and behavior therapy was in-patient. Some patients spend months in the hospital ward before they are “upgraded” to out-patient status. It all depends on your willingness to work with the team trying to help you.

Recovering from anorexia and OCD require a change in your thinking patterns and how you face life. It requires reprogramming the brain and learning new ways of dealing

with stress and anxiety. Even patients who are considered “recovered” will face challenges down the road.

Difficult pregnancies and a ‘messed-up place’

My pregnancies were very hard. I have four children. With each pregnancy, there were new struggles. While some think anorexia is about weight, it’s actually very much about control. Each time I was pregnant, I did not have complete control over what my body would look or feel like. Many changes were out of my control, and this caused stress and anxiety and led me to want to turn back to my old ways. Females with anorexia often stop having their periods (which I did at my lowest weights) and they often get stuck in a boyish body shape. Pregnancy hormones cause weight gain, breast size increase and tenderness, wider hips and a more “shapely” body that can be very overwhelming to an anorexic. I knew I needed to embrace these changes and that trying to fight it would be unhealthy

to my unborn child. But I hated looking in the mirror. I felt like my body was not mine anymore and that the baby was “taking over” in a sense.

My health insurance only covered problems directly related to my pregnancy, which presented new problems as well. I talked to my OB about my feelings and my past health problems, and the doctor referred me to a therapist who said I was fine. Some days I felt anything but fine. I was ashamed to admit I resented the baby for taking over my body the way it was. I was torn between loving the newly forming life inside of me and hating it for taking away my control.

I was in a messed-up place, and there was no one around to help me. Even when I asked for the help, I was told it was normal to feel “emotional” during pregnancy. Never was I given the opportunity to speak to anyone qualified in pregnancy of anorexics or former eating disorder patients. □

1 in 5 Cancer Survivors Suffers Chronic Pain, Study Finds

More than 40 percent of cancer survivors experience pain, and the risk is highest among black and female patients, finds a new study.

Researchers at the University of Michigan Health System surveyed nearly 200 U.S. cancer survivors and found that 43 percent had experienced pain since their diagnosis, and 20 percent suffered chronic cancer-related pain at least two years later.

Among white patients, the most significant source of pain was cancer surgery (53.8

percent), and among black patients the greatest source of pain was cancer treatment (46.2 percent), according to the report. In addition, the study found that compared to men, women had more pain, more pain flare-ups, more disability due to pain and were more depressed because of pain. The authors also noted that black patients were more likely to report greater severity of pain and more pain-related disability, and also expressed more concern about harmful pain treatment side effects.

The study was released online in advance of publication in an upcoming print issue of the journal Cancer.

“All in all, the high prevalence of cancer and pain and now chronic cancer pain among these survivors, especially blacks and women, shows there’s more work to be done in improving the quality of care and research,” lead author and pain medicine specialist Dr. Carmen R. Green, a professor of anesthesiology, obstetrics and gynecology and health management and policy at the



University of Michigan, said in a university news release. Poor pain management may be the result of patient and physician attitudes and lack of knowledge, the researchers suggested. For example, patients and doctors may minimize pain complaints because they’re worried about

the pain medication side effects, such as addiction, or fear that pain is a sign that the cancer has gotten worse.

“When necessary and appropriate there are a variety of therapies available to address pain and improve [patients’] well-being,” Green said. □

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Al menos 727 muertos, 207 desaparecidos en inundaciones Brasil

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - Al menos 207 personas aún están desaparecidas después de los peores deslaves sufridos por Brasil en décadas, dijeron el miércoles autoridades, mientras que la cifra de fallecidos en la pintoresca región montañosa llega a 727. La lista de desaparecidos entregada por la oficina del fiscal del estado de Río de Janeiro -la primera estimación oficial del número de desaparecidos desde la catástrofe de la semana pasada- sugiere que la cifra total de fallecidos podría acercarse a 1.000.

Funcionarios locales en Teresópolis y Nova Friburgo, las ciudades más afectadas, estimaron que al menos 300 personas aún están desaparecidas. Se supone que muchas de ellas estarían enterradas por las avalanchas de lodo y agua que destruyeron cientos de casas.

“Hay familias que resultaron

tan diezmadas que no quedó nadie para confirmar quién está desaparecido”, dijo Roberto Botto, portavoz de la Agencia de la Defensa Civil en Nova Friburgo, donde murieron al menos 345 personas.

La cifra de fallecidos ha estado subiendo a diario mientras socorristas llegan a áreas aisladas y extraen más cadáveres de los escombros de barrios que fueron virtualmente arrasados por los deslaves e inundaciones tras lluvias torrenciales en el sudeste de Brasil.

Helicópteros del Ejército han estado realizando misiones a áreas remotas para recoger sobrevivientes y ayudarlos a recuperar cuerpos desde sus casas en ruinas. Se cree que cientos de personas aún están en áreas propensas a sufrir nuevos deslaves.

Algunos de ellos están aislados por carreteras y puentes



Imagen de archivo de los destrozos causados por un deslave en Conquista, Brasil, ene 17 2011. Al menos 207 personas aún están desaparecidas después de los peores deslaves sufridos por Brasil en décadas, dijeron el miércoles autoridades, mientras que la cifra de fallecidos en la pintoresca región montañosa llega a 727. REUTERS/Bruno Domingos

destruidos, mientras que otros se rehúsan a abandonar sus casas por miedo a que sean saqueadas.

Las inundaciones y deslaves golpearon con tanta fuerza

que la geografía de la región cambió profundamente, dijeron funcionarios.

“Los arroyos se convirtieron en ríos profundos y anchos. Hay un gran cambio geográfico;

es como si las ciudades hubieran sido completamente refundadas”, dijo Icaro Moreno, presidente de EMOP, una compañía de obras públicas del Gobierno. □

Piñera y García destacan buenas relaciones

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - Los presidentes de Chile y Perú manifestaron el miércoles su decisión de dejar atrás los desencuentros causados por un diferendo limítrofe y fortalecer la actividad comercial entre ambos países.

“Vivimos el mejor momento de nuestras relaciones”, dijo el mandatario peruano Alan García a la prensa tras firmar con su par chileno Sebastián Piñera dos convenios de cooperación para facilitar el tránsito fronterizo de personas y combatir el narcotráfico.

Durante la rueda de prensa, los mandatarios intercambiaron bromas y elogios.

“Estamos obligados a trabajar juntos para fortalecer nuestras actividades económicas, comerciales, políticas”, agregó García. Según apuntó Piñera, el intercambio comercial bilateral alcanza los 3.000 millones de dólares. □

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